The Builder.

VOL. XXXII.—No. 1633.

The Labourers' and the Farmers' Difficulty.

NOTWITHSTANDING some good symptoms, the uneasy state of the relations between the English farmer and the English labourer is a question that knocks rather loudly at the door of every one of us. While it has not assumed the magnitude, or displayed the same amount of embittered feeling, that we have before this had occasion to deplore in similar contests, where mining and mechanical industries were involved, yet there are circumstances peculiar to the occupation of the tillers of the soil which give to any hostile measures in this department of production unusual importance. In all countries, — although less apparently in temperate climates than in those in which either extreme of temperature is more severe, — the season of the year has a primary influence on the conditions of labour. But in the ingathering of the fruits of the earth, and in the operations which precede that ingathering, this difference of season becomes critical. Two or three weeks lost, at either of these times of the year, means a season lost. The revolution of the whole series of fifty-two weeks is regulated by these two crucial times; and if they be occupied by debate and dispute, the farmer may be the first to suffer, but assuredly will not be the last. Producers and consumers will alike have to pay for the loss of this critical time.

The subject is, indeed, one on which the feeling of the parties actually interested is so keen, that it well becomes the public writer to avoid encumbering it with platitudes, or affronting it with advice which may be well meant, but will be assuredly little needed. The service which the press may render, in such cases, is not to re-echo the counsels of the pulpit, or the declamations of the lecture-table. At the same time, in all class contests of the kind, it usually is the case that certain important elements are left out of sight. The combatants are, too often, so blinded by the dust and confused by the din raised by their own struggles, as rather to look at what may be the most available weapon for the moment, than to investigate calmly all the conditions of the case. Such, indeed, may be said to be the fact in almost all warfare; certainly in all that bloodless warfare which is waged within the area of the same kingdom or State. For each party to know accurately, and to state plainly, what are the points that it considers to be essential, is the first step towards the settlement of a dispute. To this the disputants must ultimately come; and very much time, cost, wrath, and suffering will be saved if they do so in the first instance, rather than in the last.

There is one consideration as to which we would urge those of our readers who are not prepared, in the first instance, to assent to it, to give careful reflection. It is this,—How far has the doctrine of the self-regulation of interests that are mutually dependent led to retrograde political and industrial action? We think that the condition of the farm labourers has been directly affected by reliance on this theory. Principles may be thoroughly true in the abstract, and yet, if applied *in the raw* to the regulation of human conduct, may prove either ineffective, or absolutely mischievous. Such is the case with the doctrine of the relation between demand and supply. That there is such a relation, is a truism. That such a relation must, in due time, have a controlling influence, is unquestionable. Thus, when the farmer tells the labourers that the rate of wages must depend, not on the organisation of unions, but on the balance between the amount of labour in the market,—that is to say, the number of men able and willing to work—and the demand for labour, he tells him what is, no doubt true; but yet what may be no more appropriate to the matter in hand than the question of the density of the atmosphere in the moon. For although true, it is not the whole truth. It is like arguing from statistical averages. It may be perfectly true, for example, that the amount of bread, meat, money, or any other object of desire, in a given district, may be such as to allow an average distribution of a very respectable quantity to every soul within that district. But if you meet a hungry man, who asks you for a loaf of bread, it is no answer to tell him that the bakeries of the district have turned out seven loaves per head for every mouth. He wants his loaf, for his own mouth. The statistical value of his mouth is perhaps 1-100,000th in your calculations. To him it is unity, or all per cent. Your averages may be perfectly true; but—all the same—there is a present vacuum in the poor man's belly which they by no means fill.

We may illustrate what we mean by the action of water. This is well understood, not only by the engineer, but, to a certain extent, by everybody. We all know that water runs down hill. But does it follow that human skill and energy can do nothing, and that the rain which falls on our fields must be left, under the influence of this great law of hydraulic movement, to make its own way to the sea? Such, no doubt, is the case in uninhabited countries; and the mighty torrents of the Nile or La Plata have poured down for thousands of years, owing nothing of their grandeur to the hand of man. But it by no means follows that man can do nothing in face of this great law. In actual fact he can do much. He can make the law work for him, instead of looking on as the helpless sport of its operation. He finds acres of swamp and marsh, inaccessible to any foot save that of the wading bird, and productive only of rank vegetation and the humbler forms of molluscous or of insect life. Is he to argue that marsh is marsh, and that there is no room for man where his foot cannot rest? On the contrary, he knows how to drain. He may, with some intelligence and some labour, convert the fen into a rich cornfield, as in Lincolnshire; or, with even less change from its original state, into fertile ricefields, as in Tuscany. The foaming torrent, turned by human labour, grinds the corn when ripe, or drives the sawmills which furnish the materials for another department of industry.

It is precisely the same with regard to labour. The law of supply and demand cannot be more inflexible than the law of gravity. In fact, there is no just comparison to be drawn between the certitude of the two. The latter is an unsleeping force, on the constant action of which, whether in our favour or against us, we have to reckon. The former is one of those relations which are only to be grasped in the abstract, and the force of which diminishes the more it is pursued into detail, — not because it is not existent, but because it is only one amongst many active forces, moral as well as material. Therefore for a man to stand aside, and refuse to put his own shoulders to the wheel of the public good,—to say that disputes must settle themselves, and that wise counsel and wise laws are of no avail, because of the unfailing action of the law of supply and demand,—is much the same wisdom as that of the man who would leave his land undrained, or take no steps to prevent the destructive overflow of a river, on the excuse that, do what he might, water would find its own level.

It can hardly be questioned that, for the last third of a century, the mutual relations of the different classes in this country have been more and more left to regulate themselves. The idea of self-regulation as being not only ultimately certain, as a matter of average, but intermediately satisfactory, and that to such an extent as to destroy all other modes of regulation, has been accepted as if it were a well-understood and perfectly satisfactory doctrine. It has influenced our legislation to an extraordinary extent. Under the influence of this idea, while we have been destroying everything that could be represented as a restriction on personal freedom and independence, we have been actually sweeping away an ancient and time-tried organisation, without taking any steps to replace it. All those provisions which regulated apprenticeship, journeymanship, the hierarchy of craftsmanship, and the fixed relations between employer and employed, or between the individual members of any craft and the body of the craft itself, we have been for some time past steadily and ruthlessly destroying.

We are not about to urge that the old institutions were compatible with modern ideas of progress. We shall not enter into that question. Let it be taken for granted that they had gradually grown out of date; but it does not follow that, however cumbrous, they were not better than nothing. It remains to be shown how far it is the path of true wisdom to destroy an organisation, however imperfect, except by the conservative process of replacing it by a more efficient and well-considered organisation.

That we have erred in this respect seems to us to be proved by the fact that while the Legislature, and the politically active class, have busied themselves in the removal of restrictions, and in the destruction of organisation, the very people in whose interest these changes were supposed to be made, have commenced action in the opposite direction; an action that has attained great force, as well as produced, repeatedly, very disastrous consequences. No sooner do we free the workman from ancient restrictions, imposed, whether wisely or not, with the view to the benefit, not of one class, but of all, than he begins to replace them by other restrictions of his own imposing, many of which are, apparently and certainly, prejudicial to the industrious, and beneficial in the long run to none. No sooner do we tell the mechanic or agricultural labourer that he must govern himself, than he submits to the newly-constituted government of the union. To avoid the tyranny of the farmer, the squire, and may be the parson, the rustic takes refuge under the tyranny of the delegate. In so doing, he abandons the guidance of those who, whatever their defects, have a certain hereditary stake in the welfare of the country, for that of those who have no stake, *status*, or guarantee whatever. He abandons the lead of men who, with all their defects and faults, have the advantage of the best education that the country affords, and, above all, of the education of society, and, in most cases, of public schools and universities; for that of those whose education is not only of the narrowest character, as regards actual learning and science, but whose position in life precludes them from obtaining the advantages of that more important education, given in the friction of society, which does not commence until a man has left his college, and entered on real life.

We are not in any way blaming the mechanic

or the agricultural labourer for so doing. What blame is due in the matter rests at the door of those who have not only left, but driven him into this corner. If legislation is destructive, who shall blame the workman for the best attempt at reconstruction that we have left within his grasp? This is what is done when law is made to abdicate its true functions. We have recently come, in a manner that would have been inconceivable to our ancestors, and will probably be inconceivable to our descendants, to substitute legislation for law. We tell Englishmen that they are to live, not under the laws which their ancestors patiently and thoroughly elaborated, but under those which are made, brand-new, by every self-constituted reformer. We make laws, of which the number is legion; of which the meaning and force can only be ascertained by means of costly suits in courts of justice; and of which the experience of each year sends us to the legal tinkers to produce a crop of amendments for the next session of the ever busy law-making body.

The most hopeful effort to escape from this bewildering maze, where the absence of normal regulations is replaced by continual new legislation as to details, is offered by those projects of arbitration, which we now see brought forward, sometimes with and sometimes without success, on each new occasion of class conflict. It is unfortunate that an expedient, which is so obvious as a pacific instrument, should be left to casual instigation. In the Continental countries which are governed by the code, arbitration is a primary element in all cases of mercantile contention. Courts of primary instance exist, proceedings before which assume, in many cases, the form of conciliatory measures rather than of legal conflict. Again, matters of dispute between partners, in some Continental countries, are invariably remitted to arbitration; the only action of the ordinary tribunals, with regard to them, being to facilitate the appointment of these substitutes for professional judges. Thus it is not only to the voice of common sense that we are called to listen in this matter. It is not to our brief experience, and to the balance between success and failure in attempted arbitrations, that we have to refer. The keen-witted and subtle nation to which we owe no small portion of our jurisprudence, has here set us an example which we might well follow with no faltering pace.

We are not entering into these matters without practical aim. The destruction of the old organisation must be taken as an accomplished fact. The sense of the void thus caused is evinced by the attempts at self-organisation, which, as proceeding from and embracing only one part of the class interested, are necessarily imperfect, or even mischievous. Is it not the proper inference that this imperative duty should no longer be allowed to discharge itself? Is it not the part of those who on one hand are deeply interested in our agricultural welfare, and on the other hand are fitted by birth, education, and position, to take the lead, to come forward with some scheme of re-organisation, that may bind together in a firm bundle these sticks which are now being broken one by one?

One primary maxim underlies success in any such attempt. It is a maxim which we have before this formulated, but which we do not hesitate to repeat. It can scarcely be too often repeated. We would have it written, if not in letters of gold, yet in a text so legible, and affixed to stations so public, that men should perforce remember it. Success, in matters industrial and political, follows that action which pulls with human motion, not that which pulls against it. Human nature is on the winning side. We may try to screw it down, by rule or by formulary, but it is irrepressible. It will be settled with; why not enlist it in the great struggle for public welfare?

We think, then, in the first instance, the employers of agricultural labour should make an effort to show to those whom they employ that a union, to deserve the name, must be the union of a great interest; and not a division of its members into two hostile camps. Let the farmers, and the great landowners (to whom the question will come home if left unsettled) lay aside any irritation that they feel at the visits of stranger delegates, who come to fill the void caused by the craving of the labourer for guidance and organisation; and let them at least make the effort to fill that void themselves. Let them seize or make opportunities for meeting the working men, and for resuming their natural and traditional position of leaders, counsellors, and friends. Let them propose rules for a true union, with which all may be content. If certain occasions were taken on which the more intelligent and respectable of the labourers were called into conference with the farmers and landowners, there are very many subjects on which information could be exchanged, with the utmost advantage to both sides; and by which ill will would be thoroughly averted. The rate of wages is one, and only one, of these questions. We will suggest a mode by which this, instead of being, as now, the bone of contention, might be made the very connecting link that should bind together master and man. But how much more is there that forms the proper province for discussion in such agricultural unions as we propose? The state of the labourer's dwelling, so much improved in some few places, so much needing improvement in many others. The sanitary rules which are rather of domestic than of municipal application. The diffusion of sound knowledge on this subject is a matter of crying need. Then arises the education question. The poor man finds the penny a week to press hard on him, and the absence of the child who might earn somewhat doubles the pressure. This might be met by a general effort to spread through the rural districts that special knowledge, the teaching of which at South Kensington is becoming so extraordinarily popular,—we mean the science of cooking. If the State has undertaken what we may call the literary education of the children of the poor, who regards the far more important charge of the practical education,—of their being made fit to make the best of the life before them? Trade education, properly so-called, was understood by the old guilds, but is now almost, if not altogether, extinct. This is a subject which can only be efficiently taken up by some such method as we propose. The girls should be taught to sew, to knit, to plait, to use their fingers in all deft women's work. They should be taught to cook, to bake, to wash, to understand the duties of a housewife. These things do not come by nature. Poverty is bad enough; but poverty in this country is rendered far more pinching than it would otherwise be by that sheer waste which results from the total want of education in domestic duty. Nor should such teaching be confined to the girls. Why should the boys not be taught those things in which man can aid himself or his fellow,—taught them with definite plan, and the wisdom of practical experience, and not left to pick them up, anyhow, or not to pick them up at all? A lad does not know by nature how to groom a horse; how to tend a cow; how to feed and manage domestic animals of every kind; how to till the corner of the field; or to make the garden a source of profit, of health, and of delight.

Again, there is the question of sickness,—not the parish doctor alone, but that tendance which our grandmothers were wont to give to the people around their gates; the good counsel, or the strengthening food, or the timely remedy, that shall rather avert disease than leave it till it becomes so formidable that it demands the doctor. In sickness, most eminently, a stitch in time is the saving of nine. This is another subject for a real agricultural union to take up.

If the employers of agricultural labour will organise and head unions (call them by what name you will) of the great agriculturist class that shall thus anticipate the real wants of the labourer, and aid him in that which he now dimly desires, the raising of his position, the wind will be taken entirely out of the sails of those whose first and last word is, "Strike for higher wages."

Lastly, as to wages. It is our firm and well-considered opinion that there is a natural rate of wages proper to each occupation. If the labourer receive less, not only is he a sufferer, but his work, and therefore his employer, is a sufferer. On the other hand, if, by any artificial means, the rate of wages, in any particular industry, is forced above that which is its proportionate value, disturbance and troubles will result. It is not to the interest of the farmer to screw down the labourer. It is not to the interest of the labourer to make the farmer pay more than his work is worth. Both parties, then, have, in truth, a common interest. That interest is first to discover, and then to pay and receive, the true normal rate of wages.

As to that rate, it has not varied so much in the course of history, as a cursory perusal of history might lead any one to think. The continued diminution of weight in the coinage, according to which a silver penny of to-day is only the third part of the weight of a silver penny in the time of the Norman kings, is one of the circumstances that obscure this subject. The greater comparative abundance of silver, as compared with gold, is another. When the Roman civilisation was planted on our shores a golden penny was worth twenty-five silver pennies. A gold penny, if such a coin were now struck, would be worth thirty-two silver pennies. But, under all these changes, the quantity of nourishment that the labourer required to keep him in health has been unchanged. Thus it has happened that the number of bushels of corn that his year's work has earned has not very greatly varied.

Here is a point of union. We may take a high average wage of an agricultural labourer to-day, at a quarter of barley for a month of four weeks. If it were a quarter of wheat, we feel convinced that it would be better for master as well as for man. But, be it one or the other, if the *corn rate of wages* were once adopted as a national rule, how much contention would be avoided? More than this, if the rate paid were not the imperial average, but the average of the farm,—if the wages paid by each farmer were balanced at the end of the year, according to the price per bushel at which he sold the corn grown on his farm,—the great principle of co-operation would be at once introduced, and not only master and men, but men, women, and children throughout the parish would all become members of one great copartnership of agricultural welfare.

One solemn word more. If the amount of rent paid for land be the hindrance in the way of life-sustaining and life-advancing wages to the tillers of it, landowners had better begin to look to it.

THE HISTORY OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

In bringing out, with some modifications, a second edition of the treatise * on "The Modern Styles of Architecture," which was before put forth as the third volume of his "Handbook of Architecture," Mr. Fergusson indicates in a short preface the form which the work is finally to take, and the position of this portion in relation to the whole. The "History of Modern Architecture" is now to be regarded as the fourth volume of the "Handbook," the first two volumes of which will be re-issued nearly in their original form, with such additions and corrections as may be requisite to bring them up to the knowledge of the present day, but with the omission of the section on Indian architecture. This latter, which in the existing edition occupies about 300 pages, with 260 woodcuts, will be increased to twice its original extent, with a good many more illustrations, and in this form will constitute the third volume of the "Handbook." It is to be presumed that the author has well considered the matter before coming to this decision; but we cannot help feeling that such a division must impair the uniformity and balance of the work, as a general treatise on architecture, by placing in undue prominence a subject which is a speciality of its author's. In a work which is intended to be of permanent value this is a mistake. Indian architecture has not, *per se*, any claim to have a whole volume to itself in such a general history. What extra interest may belong to it is temporary, and arises from the fact that it has been almost entirely neglected, and that Mr. Fergusson has had special facilities for studying it. This would be a very good reason for publishing a separate work on the subject in detail, but is no reason for overweighting it by a separate volume in a work professing to give an account of all styles impartially. We must regret this decision, because if the work obtains, as we have good reason to expect, a permanent place in architectural literature, this disproportion in form is one which will become more apparent in process of time than it is now, and will tend to rob the book of that universal and cosmopolitan character which it professedly aims at.

Apart from this consideration, those who take an enlightened interest in the history of architecture, in all its phases, will not be unwilling to have their attention again directed to that period of the art which Mr. Fergusson, more decisively than any

* History of the Modern Styles of Architecture, by James Fergusson, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c. Second Edition, forming the fourth volume of the new edition of the "History of Architecture." London: John Murray.

other writer, has marked off as essentially distinct, in its basis and principles, from whatever preceded the sixteenth century; and to which, while branding it as a period of emphatically false art, he has devoted what on his own showing ought to be considered a completely disproportionate degree of attention and illustration. But in other instances besides this it has happened that the instincts of the critic are truer and more catholic than his principles. It would be difficult to contradict Mr. Fergusson's position (and our own position before Mr. Fergusson wrote) that architecture since the *cinquecento* period has for the most part been practised on a totally different footing from that which it occupied in pre-Renaissance times. The radical distinction between the Mediæval architecture, almost (to borrow an expression from Milton),—

——"Self-begot, self-raised
"By its own quickening power,"

and the piecing together of the Renaissance from the bones of extinct classic styles, is incontrovertible; nor can the major part of the modern Gothic revival be otherwise regarded. But it seems to be forgotten, even by Mr. Fergusson himself (in theory, though his practice fully admits it), that this very tendency to an architecture of reproduction is of itself a natural and inevitable characteristic of a certain epoch in human history, and that therefore the interest attaching to it is as genuine, though not so intense, as that awakened by the study of what our author, in one sense justly, distinguishes as the *true* styles of architecture. And we may go further and say that in building in a style adopted from existing materials there is as much scope for distinction between good and bad architectural design as in any other case.

A certain confusion of ideas in relation to the nature of architectural design pervades, we venture to think, the introductory chapter, which to some readers will be the most interesting of the work. We note remarks which hit the truth clearly and briefly; as to the want, for instance, of the "touch of higher art" in our buildings, owing to the neglect of mural painting; or the definition of the position of architectural carving, as the art required to link together those of painting and sculpture. But the author is carried away by the idea of the necessarily spontaneous character of architectural design, as distinguished from the direct individual expression of sculpture and painting. Reverting to his elsewhere published theory of "the principles of Beauty in Art," the diagnosis of which will scarcely bear the test of criticism, he exaggerates the utilitarian and scientific element in architecture; he regards architecture (the "true styles") as the engineering of the past; engineering as the architecture of the present; and to make the comparison fit, it is insisted that in both cases the individuality of the architect or engineer was nothing, the work and the best manner of executing it, according to the knowledge of the time, everything. Now, in regard to old buildings, Egyptian or Greek temples, or Mediæval cathedrals, the fact that we do not know the name of any directing architect or designer in connexion with them (with a few doubtful exceptions), simply proves that our information is limited, and nothing more: it can at most only lead to a conjectural opinion. Mr. Fergusson adduces as the parallel modern instance, that of Blackfriars Bridge:—

"In the late competition for the new Blackfriars Bridge, no one cared who was the engineer to be appointed. Of those who competed some suggested a three, some a five, others a seven arched bridge. Some were for wrought, others for cast iron; some preferred stone, or granite, or brick. But that is all. The Common Council,—like a Mediæval chapter,—had to decide on the number of arches, the material, and the expense. That done, there are a hundred men, any one of whom could build the bridge as well as the remaining ninety-nine. All the public cared to know was, that, whoever was employed, it certainly would be a better bridge of its class than any that had been built before. Exactly as it was with architecture in the Middle Ages, so it is now with engineering, and so it always must be when an art is cultivated on true principles."

This is a specious way of putting it, no doubt; though Blackfriars Bridge is in one respect a singularly unhappy instance to select, as it is not in outward aspect a structure springing purely from the requirements of the problem, but includes, in its unfortunately designed piers, a flagrant specimen of that very sin of borrowed and (mis.) applied "architectural" features, which Mr. Fergusson has so strongly and properly denounced; and this unfortunate attempt at design is so evidently the work of an individual that one can only regret that the public or the authorities cared so little in what hands this kind of work was left. Had the bridge really been carried out on that purely utilitarian footing which is here implied, it might not have been a beautiful structure, but it would at least have escaped being in one respect a ridiculous one. But the whole passage is, we must be allowed to say, a logical fallacy; the fallacy consisting in the ambiguous sense of the word "better." It may be quite true that, in regard to the modern bridge, all that was wanted was that it should be "better" than any previous one; and it might be equally true to say that the great ambition of the Mediæval masons in building a cathedral was to make it "better" than any other in the country; but it must be obvious that in the one case "better" means simply more useful, fitter for its purpose, and in the other case it might mean this, but it meant also grander, more beautiful, more impressive. The same meaning might equally be applied in regard to a bridge, than which no class of structure offers finer opportunities for picturesque and beautiful treatment. But it is obvious that it is not so applied here, and that if it were, the statement would be at variance with fact. The public do not care about a bridge in any but a utilitarian point of view. But though the distinction between the æsthetic "better," and the utilitarian "better" may not be easily defined in words, it is soon enough recognised in thought; and if any critic seriously maintains that in saying that the front of Wells is better than that of Salisbury, he intends the same kind of praise as in pronouncing the lattice girder a better form than the tubular one, he fails to distinguish between two diverse modes of excellence, and confounds a difference in degree with a difference in kind.

Our thoughtful and studious historian of architecture suffers, however, from no such essential incapacity of perception. The contrarieties of his book arise in the main from the fact that he has committed himself to a theory which, with a certain basis of truth, is irreconcilable and untenable as a whole, and into which he is endeavouring to squeeze phenomena which the theory cannot be made to cover. His own perceptions on the subject go much beyond his theory; and in his appreciative and often eloquent praise of some of the best achievements of modern architecture at Venice, Florence, and elsewhere, his feeling and sentiment furnish the happiest contradiction to the dry view of the subject which his logic goes to impose on himself and his readers. While, therefore, the less concerned at the promulgation of a fallacy to which the author of it supplies his own antidote, we may suggest that in the exposition and illustration of his theory Mr. Fergusson more than once falls into a little exaggeration. The rhapsody on the interest of the genuine Gothic cathedral (p. 24) is over-coloured, and at variance with sentiments expressed elsewhere. So also the observations on the "purity of style and correctness of composition" (p. 32) of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, wherein the real originality of some parts of the structure is ignored; while the observations in a following paragraph as to the supreme importance attached by architects and architectural critics to hairbreadth correctness of proportion in "Classic" detail, &c., might have been true enough twenty or thirty years ago, but are out of date in 1874. The architectural interest, again, of certain modern buildings (the cathedral at Boulogne, the church at Mousta, &c.), erected under that wholesale *laissez faire* system which Mr. Fergusson regards as the secret of the excellence and spirit of Mediæval architecture, appears to us to be quite overstated, so far as to ignore entirely the value of refined detail,—an excellence depending more on the eye and the general culture of the architect, than on his possession of unimpeachable precedents from old buildings. In regard to one point of difference, however, between modern and ancient architectural practices, appearances are certainly in favour of Mr. Fergusson's view. Whether or not there were really a person distinctly responsible as "architect" of the Karnac temple or the Parthenon, of Salisbury or Amiens, there can be no doubt that in modern architecture the personality of the architect, and the individuality of his work, are far more pronounced than in any of the erections of the pre-Renaissance period, when a unity of style pervaded a whole nation; and, let us ask, why not? One thing is pretty certain, that under the conditions of modern life it is utterly impossible to extinguish this personality, or to level it down (or up) to one standard, we cannot restore the naïve singleness of aim of the Mediæval masons. To attempt it would be to attempt to create one more "sham"; but is it even desirable? Certainly, this is a different system of practising architecture from the former one; but (so long as we can get clear of mere copyism) is it necessarily bad on that account? In the face of the extreme tendency of the social system of the present day to annihilate the individual, it is one of the benefits of art that it gives scope for original conception and work. To have added another art to those which furnish this outlet for individuality may, in some lights, be found to be an unquestionable gain.

Leaving the philosophy of the subject, we may say a word in general as to the phases of modern architecture treated of in this very interesting volume. But that we may have the space which the book deserves, we will postpone it until our next.

ANOTHER LOOK IN AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

VERY much depends upon a name for a picture, no doubt, though there may not be much in it; but why the classic, clever Mr. E. J. Poynter, A., should call his meek and proper nymph re-dressing herself, after such ablution as purifies naked truth, "Rhodope" (172), must be left to the learned to find out. It is hard to feel satisfied now with so small a contribution to a Royal Academy exhibition as this nicely-designed and well-studied mythic miss is, from the restorer of belief in dragons and other monstrous machinery for terrorism; assaulting and battering. "Serena, found of Salvages" (173), could be no one else, and scarcely needed the announcement that her re-appearance was due to Mr. W. E. Frost, R.A. Mr. H. S. Marks, A., has turned his labour to capital account, to show that a grievous question between "Capital and Labour" is at least as old as the Tudors (179), and it may be taken for granted that it will remain a grievance as long as there is a man left who has to work for his living. A deputation of workmen have met the noble proprietor of the mansion they are erecting for him, as he is inspecting the progress of the works, accompanied by that never very enviable and always very responsible individual who is supposed to direct the builders to urge an increase of their pay. The knowledge that they have my lord rather to their advantage accounts in some measure, perhaps, for their extremely respectful bearing in representing their claims upon his consideration; for 50 ft. or so above hard gravel go no way towards heightening consciousness of sure footing on scaffolding, if you do not happen to be used to it; and there is a slight suggestiveness of nervousness in the twiddling of his gold collar, though it does not much interfere with the dignified attention he lends to the men's request, indicating a very probable grant of it. This is one of the most complete and thoroughly satisfactory pictures of the collection, showing remarkable apprehension of character and first-rate technical qualities: in another and less important use of them, wherein a scholar is enjoying a solitary walk, and "A Page of Rabelais" (388), these recommendations are intensified.

Neither "Juliet and Friar Lawrence" (132), nor "A State Secret" (223), is a fair example of Mr. J. Pettie, R.A. Elect, beyond the brilliant colour and dashing method of applying it that mark the second,—a cardinal burning parchments or papers. Mr. T. Faed, R.A., appeals, in 227, most impressively to the sympathies in his very pathetic rendering of a very old story, though, from frequent recurrence of its chief incident, it can never remain old. A daughter has married in disobedience to parental advice, and matters have turned out as the father and mother had foreboded. Treated fairly enough for a while, until "the black scum floated," the poor lassie returns to her home, sure of being "Forgiven," as only fathers and mothers can forgive. The girl hides her face; grief and shame make her disregardful of her mother's attempt to console her. The father "never said a word, but took up his hat and gaed away out." "Ye mind he was whiles rather harsh wi' her. She has suffered sairly for her disobedience, poor lassie; but she's hame now,"—with a small proof of this disobedience in the shape of a plump baby, that a pet collie dog is absorbed in contemplating, as if suspicious that his position

in the family would be considerably altered by this intruder. How splendidly this subject has served Mr. Faed with opportunity for employing all his resources as a painter, may be partly guessed by those who know his wonderful command over colour and brush; but the pathos and truthfulness with which the story is related make its narrative quite the first cause of the interest it secures.

Mr. G. Storey's procession of charity-school children, "The Blue Girls of Canterbury" (66), and his still prettier "Grandmama's Christmas Visitors" (521); Mr. E. Frère's "Woodcutter's Dinner" (214); and "Children teasing a Snail" (149); "The Appeal to the Podesta," by Mr. W. F. Yeames, A. (280); and the "English Ladies visiting a Moor's House" (475), by Mr. J. B. Burgess,—are amongst the best of many similar instances wherein children are employed as principal actors. Mr. J. Sant, R.A., amongst many memorable pictures of handsome little boys and pretty little girls, must include the little duchess whose cheeks rival the "Peaches" she has just gathered (158) with those he would wish to insure the longest general recollection for; he has painted her with as much loving care, taste, and skill as if she were his own. It is a charming picture; and we were not surprised to hear that it was sold as soon as seen.

There have been very few English painters who could boast of more followers or imitators than Mr. W. P. Frith, R.A., in his earlier days, when imitation might have been thought possible. What a recommendation it was for a picture—not his—to be described as being "something in his style!" Even then he was inimitable, though it was just as well to leave it for belief that others might arrive at similar distinction by acquiring some of the excellence that distinguished him in addition to what might come from other sources for them. But, now, it must be judged as quite settled that no one else can paint like him on his own ground,—"Ramsgate Sands," "Railway Stations," and "Derby Days," or some of such scenes from abroad as may form appendix to these—for the crowd's recognition of what may be seen and learnt in crowds; and so nobody else tries. It is quite a relief, after a long feast of wonder at splendid achievement of nothing but what must go for assertion of great capability for doing something, to come to such meaning use of means as Mr. Frith displays in his treatment of a very difficult subject for general appreciation. He was quite right to rely on the "one touch of nature," that "makes the whole world kin," in depicting "The Great Annual Procession of"—their—"Lady of Boulogne": right to make "Blessing the Little Children" the positive theme of his picture (243); for it brings amenity for the most earnest Protestant, the most trivial Ritualist, and stanchest Roman Catholic alike. It is a pretty sight, — this triumphant progress of "Our Lady of Boulogne,"—and quite a looked-for incident in the Franco-Anglo attractions of the semi-demi fashionable watering-place—Boulogne. But it is really sad to think how show, if it be met by no question of its worth, may come for faith, presently, this side of the Channel; if with no help from this picture, that should be rather accepted as one of the illustrations of its painter's knowledge of what is going on around him during his experience, than as intended to elevate for the world's direction any special matters of creed or custom in fashion. In fact, it must be as clear that satire is as much the spirit that pervades this investment of rare ability and assiduous devotion to observation and study, as that the motive for undertaking so laborious a task was confined to the determination of recording, in all its reality, a periodical occurence as regular at Boulogne as the Derby day is at Epsom. However, there is no room to doubt the sincerity of the good Bishop, gorgeous as his ecclesiastical trappings may be, who strokes the heads of pretty children; or the eagerness of their handsome mothers to secure any sort of blessing for them; or the crippled boy's hope that holy intercession will regain for him the use of his limbs; nor is there need to question that of the chanters in praise of what is profit for them. But the whole ceremony is so perfectly well brought to sight and mind by the realistic force of Mr. Frith's pencil, that, without intending it, he may be performing a ritualistic service.

Mr. Frith is unusually strong in exhibition this season, for he supplements the triumphant depiction of the triumphant procession with three or four life-sized idealised female portraits, that are very attractive personally, and are made the more so by masterly treatment and inimitable style of workmanship.

If opinions and tastes differ with regard to many things painted and paintable, it is always a safe thing for the artist who can paint a pretty face and make a pretty figure out of nearly anything which would suggest some new arrangement of the lay-figure for him to go on *ad infinitum*, so long as ingenious nominal excuse can be found for christening that which can never really become stale, with novelty. Who would care to see any exhibition of pictures that did not contain some such delightful visions as Mr. G. D. Leslie, A., succeeds in year after year heading a list of? On no former occasions have his nice innocent-looking softly sweetly-fair damsels of the last-gone century been seen to better advantage than now; occupied in the important home manufacture of delicious perfume "Pot-pourri" (129), in times unblessed by Rimmell, or Piesse & Lubin. They seem born for no harder labour than this, of pounding rose-leaves and lavender with cunningly selected spices, destined to help winter pass away, and to keep them just alive until summer sunshine returns, with the only atmosphere that would seem to fit them; for their world is a garden, their home a greenhouse, and their only care is for some beautiful old china that helps very much in giving variety to the agreeable colourings lent by the artist's treatment of ordinary but extraordinarily pleasant facts. "The Nut-brown Maid" (197), with a very small head, and eyes that are too near, does not honour quite so much her cleverly represented and tastefully selected background and belongings. Mr. Leslie's preference is obviously for tall young ladies, whilst Mr. P. H. Calderon, R.A., might be fairly suspected of a leaning the other way, judging by his "Queen of the Tournament" (335), and the very noble beauties who attend her. But, then, these handsome specimens of nature's crowning grace, and of valour's crowning glory, would have no patience with such goody, quiet things as figure in Mr. Leslie's conservatory, so it is as well to keep them separate and as widely apart as possible, more than by all the difference between satin and brocade from homespun and white muslin. The clash of arms, the din of contest, the shouts of victory, and groans of the vanquished, were music to gentle ladies' ears that listened to troubadours' song; whilst the Clarindas and Dorothies of a non-chivalric period would shudder and shriek at the bare thought of any such cruel enjoyment.

Mr. A. Elmore, R.A., has painted a type of womanhood that stands between these opposed personifications of opposite affections: "Alice Bridgenorth" (327), who was brave enough to be a heroine in the midst of fighting, without being at all fond of it; and patient, wise, and lovingly kind under very difficult trials of patience, wisdom, and loving-kindness. She must have been very like Mr. Elmore's figuration of her standing with her lover, Julian Peveril, at a doorway. For exquisite manipulation, and refined sense of colour, there are few to approach Mr. Elmore.

METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS BILL AND THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

AT the Special General Meeting, held on Monday, the 11th inst., "To resume the Discussion, adjourned from the Annual General Meeting, on the Metropolitan Buildings and Management Bill," the following resolutions were discussed *seriatim*, and carried:—

1. That the restrictions imposed upon building operations ought to be strictly limited to the ascertained requirements of the public safety; whereas in this Bill new restrictions are originated which are unnecessary, and calculated to impede the development of the value of property both in building and land.

2. That the essential importance of accurate definitions of terms for the avoidance of litigation has not been duly attended to in drawing the Bill; and that the provisions, respecting party walls especially, fail to secure the equitable adjustment of conflicting interests.

3. That the scheme of fire resisting construction which is set forth in the Bill is insufficient and imperfect; and that the provisions for amendments to be from time to time dictated by the Metropolitan Board, does not afford an adequate guarantee of efficiency.

4. That the very large dispensing and licensing powers proposed to be conferred upon the Metropolitan Board, and the Vestries, without any guarantee for their being properly advised, and their right to attach arbitrary conditions to their official approval, constitute a most undesirable system of administration, unless subjected to the check of some external judicial authority; and that in any case the law ought to be defined as minutely as possible.

5. That nothing ought to be introduced into the scheme of a Metropolitan Buildings Act, which would reduce the proper status and authority of District Surveyors, who, whilst duly responsible to central control, ought to be experienced professional men in order to give them that personal authority which has been found of great benefit in enabling them to secure compliance with the law. And that the Clause for the Examination of Candidates by the R.I.B.A. ought to be retained.

6. That the proposal to constitute a Special Court for the administration of the Buildings Act, taken separately from other provisions in the Bill, is to be highly commended, and ought to receive the utmost attention in order that the principle of such a court may be affirmed in whatever form may have due regard to other considerations; and that the practice of Arbitration by surveyors with relation to Party Structures, &c., is also worthy of being preserved as in the present Act.

It was further resolved that the Resolutions should be printed and forwarded to the chairman and members of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, as conveying the opinion of this Institute on the Bill, and the council were authorised to take such steps as might be advisable for the support of these opinions by evidence before the Select Committee.

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS AND MANAGEMENT BILL.

ON Tuesday last, the committee met at noon in Committee-room No. 12 of the House of Commons, having Sir Seymour Fitzgerald for their chairman. On behalf of the Bill, as representing the Metropolitan Board, appeared Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., and Mr. Bazalgette; while on the other side the Society of Builders was represented by Mr. A. C. Onslow, the Dock Companies by Mr. Mansfield Jones and Mr. Round, and the Railway Companies by Mr. Littler, Q.C., and Mr. Rodwell.

The whole of the sitting was occupied by Mr. Philbrick, who laid before the committee the scope and provision of the Bill, and argued at considerable length on those special clauses against which the public opposition was chiefly directed. The intention of the Bill, the learned counsel contended, was not to destroy or to alter, but to preserve. He passed in review the various Building Acts of our legislature,—of which there are at present seven more or less in force in the metropolis, ranging over a period from 1774 to 1871,—pointed out where each especially failed, and how the present Bill was to strengthen the different weak points, and generally consolidate the strong ones. Their chief opponents, he said, were the dock companies, the railway companies, the societies of the Temple, the Builders' Society, traders, merchants, manufacturers, and the Corporation of the City. He trusted, however, to be able to show that none of these interests were likely to be at all injured by the Bill, which, indeed, asked for no powers which would unduly fetter trade, injure commerce, or interfere with the rights and privileges of the city of London.

Some of the officials were examined on the two following days, and the Committee then adjourned till after Whitsuntide.

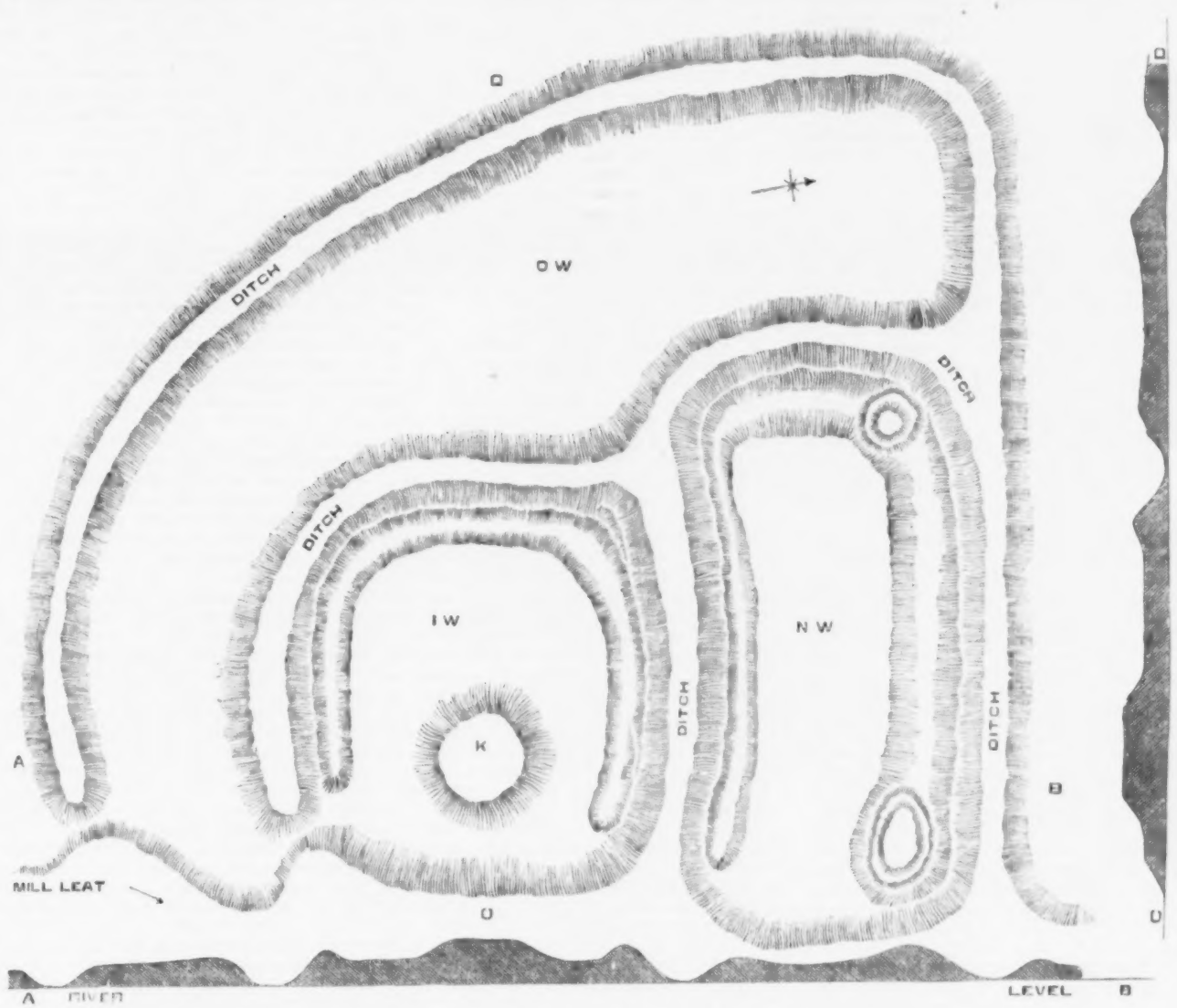
INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS.

AT the ordinary general meeting of the Institution of Surveyors, held May 11th, Mr. J. Clutton in the chair, a paper by Mr. E. J. Smith (Vice-President), on Agricultural Geology was read. At the close of it Mr. Smith said, "I would impress upon the younger members of the Institution that, in the journeys which they necessarily take, any acquaintance with the geology, or the antiquities, or the flora of the districts, will add a charm to their professional labours, and, not unfrequently, be of great value to them in their professional career."

After a few remarks from several members, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Smith for his paper.

It was announced that in consequence of Whit-Monday falling on the day fixed for the annual general meeting, the latter will be held on June the 1st., at 3 p.m., instead of on May 25th, as originally arranged.

The Indestructible Paint Company.—It may be useful to mention that the compositions manufactured by this Company have been applied to the railings and ornamental lamp-posts on the Chelsea Embankment. Those who are interested in the inquiry as to the durability of such pigments can note the effect which time may have on the work in question.



A, B, C, D. Sections. I.W. Inner Ward. N.W. North Ward. O.W. Outer Ward. K. Keep. Scale—1 in. = 27 yards.

THE CASTLES OF EATON-SOCON AND HUNTINGDON.

Eaton-Socon.—The Ouse, rising in the shires of Northampton and Bucks, and finally falling at King's Lynn into the head of the Wash, flows deep and sluggish past Bedford, St. Neots, and Huntingdon, intersecting broad tracts of low and level land, now fertile meadow, but formerly almost impassable swamp, opposing great difficulties to the march of an invading force, especially if advancing from the eastern coast. At Eaton-Socon, between Bedford and Huntingdon, and a little above the town of St. Neots, the Ouse impinges upon the rising ground to the west, upon which stand Eaton Church and Village, and which afforded facilities for the construction of a large and lofty earthwork.

This earthwork, known as the Castle Hill, is placed upon the west or left bank of the river, about 30 yards from its present brink, and a furlong or so from the fine parish church. It is possible that when the earthwork was first formed, the course of the stream lay at the foot of the banks. At present there is a large mill upon the river, a few yards above the castle, the leat of which is reunited to its parent stream opposite to the south-eastern edge of the fortress.

The appended sketch shows the general plan of the place. It is, roughly speaking, a triangle, the east side, of 160 yards, resting upon the river, and the north side, of 140 yards, projecting from it at a right angle. The third side, or hypothenuse, is convex and irregular; measured upon the curve, it is in length about 220 yards. The area, complete, is about 3½ acres.

The work is composed of three parts,—an Inner, Northern, and Outer ward. The inner and north ward lie side by side upon the river, separated by a cross ditch. The two are contained within another ditch, which communicated at each end with the river. Beyond this, covering the south-western front, is the outer ward, and beyond this again the outer ditch, which commences at the south-east corner in the mill leat, covers the south-western front, and at the north-western angle sweeps round to join the ditch already mentioned, and thus, through it, to communicate with the river at the north-east corner of the work.

The *Inner Ward* is about 45 yards north and south, or along the river front, by 54 yards east and west. Its figure is a rectangle, with the angles so rounded off that its aspect is almost as much that of a circle as of a square. Towards the river is a steep slope of about 20 ft. On the other sides a similar slope falls towards the ditch. On the crest of the slope on these three inland sides is a bank of earth about 8 ft. to 12 ft. high, especially strong at the north-west corner. The entrance was at the south-east corner. The inner area or platform of the ward is about 15 ft. above the level of the exterior soil. On this platform, about 8 yards from the north-east corner, is a low circular mound about 5 ft. high and 40 ft. diameter upon its table-top. It may have been somewhat higher. It has no ditch of its own. The ditch of this ward is from 40 ft. to 50 ft. broad, and still contains water.

North of this is the *North Ward*, above 35 yards north and south, by 80 yards east and west. This also has a ditch about 40 ft. broad, on the west and north fronts. From the inner ward it is separated by the cross ditch common to the two, and towards the river is a steep slope about 20 ft. high. Besides these defences, the slope on the west and north is crested by a steep bank of earth, and towards the south, or inner ward, is one somewhat slighter.

The *Outer Ward* is in figure long and curved. Its breadth ranges from 29 yards at the north end down to 22 yards near the south-east end, beyond which it terminates upon the mill leat in a point. This ward is separated from the other two by a common ditch, which communicates with the cross ditch, and thus at three points, directly or indirectly, with the river. The south-eastern end opens at the junction of the leat with the river. The leat covers this end of the ward, and from the leat springs the outer ditch, from 40 ft. to 50 ft. broad, which covers the outer front of the ward, and at its northern end, sweeping round by a sharp angle, is continued till it joins the north ditch, of which it thus forms a part. The entrance was at the south-east corner, where a modern causeway crosses this outer ditch. The road thence skirts the edge of the outer ward, along the margin of the leat, and thence, by a second causeway, crosses the inner ditch, and, ascending the slope, gains the inner ward. No doubt these causeways represent drawbridges. It does not appear how the inner and north ward communicated. The bridge between the latter and the outer ward was probably at the south-west corner of the northern. The ditches are in parts reduced in depth, and evidently were originally fed from the river. There is not a trace of masonry, but depressions in the bank of the north ward seem to indicate towers at its north-east and north-west angles. It is convenient to use the term angle, but the lines are more or less curved and irregular, and are largely rounded where they meet. The plan has, in fact, nothing of the squareness of a Roman work, and the rounding of the angles is quite different. It is probable that the tendency to sharpness in its outline is due to the walls and towers of the work in masonry, which, though now gone, is reported to have been at one time present.

Eaton, or Eiton, appears in Domesday, as held

in capite by the Bishop of Bayeux, but there is no mention of a castle either then or at any later time. The Beauchamps, its later lords, do not there appear as Bedfordshire landowners. In the "Liber Niger," however, about 1165, Simon de Beauchamp held a barony, under which Hugh de Beauchamp held one knight's fee.

This Hugh was of Eaton. He was the eldest son of Oliver, a cadet of Milo de Beauchamp, of Bedford. Oliver and Hugh were founders of Bismead Priory, in Eaton parish. Hugh was a considerable baron. He was Custos of Rhuddlan Castle 3 Hen. II. and, 22 Hen. II., one of those who conveyed Henry's daughter to Palermo, on her marriage with the King of Sicily. He was slain in Palestine 33 Hen. II., and succeeded by Roger, his brother, and he by a third brother, William, whose son John inherited, and, 6 Hen. III., was seized of the family manors of Eaton and Sandy. His son was William, living 42 Hen. III., father of Ralph, summoned as Lord Beauchamp of Eaton, and who died 21 Ed. I., holding one fee in Sandy and Eaton, no doubt that held by Hugh, his ancestor. He held Eaton *in capite*, "*per baroniam*." His son, Roger de Beauchamp, of Eaton, was the last summoned. He was aged 21 at his father's death, and his descendants have not been followed up.

44 Ed. III., John de Goldington and Jocosa his wife, to John Hemmyngford and others, were seized of a third part of Eaton juxta St. Neots, and half of Sandy. 1 Hen. IV. Sandy was held by Katherine, wife of Sir Thomas Engayne; and 1 Ed. IV. Lord Zouch had Eaton. Long after the extinction of the barons, the barony remained, and Wyboldeston Manor was held of it by Sir John de Greystock. In the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, Eaton was held by the Lords Vaux of Harrowden, who sold it in 1624. They were cadets of Vaux of Gilleland, and are said to have inherited Eaton from the Beauchamps.

Although the manor of Eaton is not unfrequently mentioned in the records, we never hear of the Castle, nor is the addition of "Socon" ever used. Leland writes, of "Eiton a good village in interiore ripa" [of the Ouse] . . . where be seen vestigia castelli between the church and the ripe, and almost hard on the ripe. . . . The ruins of Eiton Castle long to Lord Vaux." In Leland's loose language these terms may apply to the earthworks only. It is, however, probable, from present appearances, and from the place having for six descents been the chief, if not the only seat, of barons of the realm, that there was a castle, and Speed, writing a little later, names Woodhill, Tempsford, Eaton, and Ampthill, as the castles of Bedfordshire. It is possible that a very moderate excavation would lay bare the foundations, though, no doubt, building materials being scarce in these parts, those who dismantled the castle would make a clean sweep of the masonry.

The position is a very strong one, and the earthworks much resemble those of Huntingdon, and are probably of the same age. The mill is no doubt a very old one, though this does not apply to the present structure.

Huntingdon.—It has generally been supposed that the town of Godmanchester, upon the right bank of the Ouse, represents the Roman station of Durolipons. It is traversed by the Ermine street, which here receives the Via Devana from Cambridge, and another Roman road from the station at Salenæ, or Sandy. The Roman town, however, seems, as was often the case, to have been destroyed in the centuries of war that followed on the departure of the Roman armies, and its memory is chiefly preserved in the termination of "Chester" suffixed to its later name. The Northern invaders did not much care to build upon or employ Roman foundations, and in this case they passed over from the low and watery side of the old station and established themselves on the higher position of the Hunters, or Hunting-down, on the opposite or left and northern bank of the river. By whom, or precisely when, the capital of the future county was founded is not known. The first mention of it, or rather of Huntingdon Port, in history, is in A.D. 657, when it occurs in the foundation limits of Medehampstede (Peterborough). As a military post it is named in A.D. 918, when, according to the Saxon Chronicle, the Danish army from Huntingdon and East Anglia threw up the work at Tempsford, and for it deserted the other at Huntingdon. The work must necessarily be the earthworks now remaining, which may either have been thrown up by the Danes or by earlier Saxons. Later in the year King Eadweard with his West-Saxons brought the Danes of Northampton and the Welland to obedience, "reduced the burgh at Huntingdon, and repaired and renovated it, where it was before in a state of ruin. . . . . And all the folk that were left there of the peasantry submitted to King Eadweard, and sought his peace and his protection."

Henry, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, who wrote towards the close of the eleventh century, mentions the three burghs (*tria castra*) of Buckingham, Bedford, and Huntingdon. The castle is mentioned several times in Domesday. It was within the borough of Huntingdon. The Bishop of Lincoln had a residence (*mansio*) in the place of the castle (*in loco castri*). In the place of the castle were twenty residences (*mansiones*). "Besides these were and are LX. 'mansiones' waste . . . . . and on account of these are VIII. 'mansiones' waste." William the Conqueror was at Huntingdon 1068, when he ordered a castle to be built, evidently on the site of the old fortress restored by Edward the Elder in 918. The names in Domesday show how complete had been the removal of the larger English landowners. The new castle was probably built by, and in the hands of, Eustace, one of the most rapacious of the Norman sheriffs; but the earldom was given to Judith, the king's niece, and descended to and through Maud, her daughter by Earl Waltheof. Maud married, first, Simon de St. Liz, in her right Earl of Huntingdon. The earldom, on his death, was held by David, afterwards King of Scots, Maud's second husband, and, with the castle, was long a subject of contention between the two families, until David, the third son of Henry, son of Maud and David, laid siege to and took the castle, on which Simon de St. Liz, the son of Maud, retook it. The result was that Henry II. had the castle demolished, nor does it appear ever to have been rebuilt. The town occurs from time to time in the public records, and the honour remained attached to the earldom. The king also had a prison there; but there is never any allusion to a castle. In 1205 King John granted to Robert Rufus the demesne and mill at Huntingdon, and in 1218 and 1219 the sheriff had order to give seizin, under certain limitations, to Alexander, King of Scotland, as custos of the honour. The junior branch of the house of Hastings took the title of Huntingdon, to commemorate the descent of the elder line from the Scottish earls.

It is difficult to suppose that Henry would, within a century of its construction, demolish a first-class castle, commanding a shire town, and posted upon the edge of a very strong and inaccessible tract of country. The usual course with an important structure was to attach it to the Crown. And yet, whatever stood there was certainly then demolished, and Huntingdon Castle is not again heard of. Was there really a castle built there, or was it, as was often the case, a mere strengthened form of the older English work in timber? It is difficult, after this lapse of time, to say, though an excavation judiciously conducted would no doubt set the question at rest.

There does not appear to be any plan of Huntingdon Castle, that is, of the earthworks known as Castle-hill, which still are seen; and as they are extensive and partly included within a private garden, a mere handsketch is scarcely practicable. The position is a fine one. The Ouse, here deep, broad, and sluggish, in its way from Bedford and Eaton to the Fens, recedes from the higher land to the northward, and makes, between Huntingdon and Godmanchester, a bold curve to the south; thus inclosing a grand circle of meadow about half a mile in diameter, and now used as the racecourse. Along the northern edge of this breadth of sward flows the Alconbury brook, a considerable watercourse, which skirts the foot of the high land, and joins the Ouse opposite the Castle-hill, and just above the bridge by which the Ermine street is carried across the river. Here, upon the edge of the high land, and protected from the south by the river and the brook, and the low and formerly impassable levels beyond them, are the ancient earthworks, which though partially levelled, and reduced both in height and depth, and traversed by a road and a railway, are still very considerable, and form a remarkable feature in the view of the town from the south. In general outline the work is rather a circle than a square, and about 180 yards in clear diameter. The outer ditch, which is included in this measurement, encircles two-thirds of the whole, communicating at each end with the brook, which thus completes the investment. Upon the western margin of the area thus inclosed, and projecting boldly into it, is a large mound, the flat top of which, now crowned by a neglected mill, is 100 ft. diameter, and about 30 ft. high above the inner platform, and 40 ft. or more above the country outside. This mound, which was the citadel of the work, had its proper surrounding ditch, which at the outer face was identified with the main ditch, but elsewhere cut off the mound from the general area of the fortress. This remainder, which, by the indentation of the mound and ditch cutting out a huge cantle, was converted into a sort of crescent, was defended along its outer edge by broad and high banks of earth, perhaps 20 ft. above the contained area, and 30 ft. or 40 ft. above the circumscribing ditch. The railway passes east and west, close south of the mound, and cuts off a part of the work; the road passes north of the mound; and north of this a close fence shuts off from the visitors a part of the earthwork. The entrance was on the east, or town side. Towards the west, outside the ditch, is a natural elevated platform, which, at 100 yards' distance, terminates in a steep slope, and which may have been a part of the defences, or perhaps a safe penfold for cattle. There was a mill, mentioned in Domesday, upon the river below the castle. There is now no trace of masonry above-ground, but the earthworks look as though they had been built upon.

The two town churches are handsome. One seems, except perhaps the tower, wholly Perpendicular; the other contains some Norman or Early English work, with much of Decorated work, and some of Tudor date. Near the George Hotel are two large round-headed arches springing from three fine Norman piers. The building to which they belong has been rebuilt, or nearly so, in brick. There is said to have been a hospital here.

Although the evidence is, on the whole, in favour of the Saxon origin of these two earthworks, the mound at Eaton does not form so important a feature as usual in the burghs of the tenth century, although it is nevertheless present. But both these works present a feature which is, independently of the mound, very common in works of their class, and very uncommon in those of admitted British or Roman origin. Not only is there a mound, but the level of the area contained within the inner ditches is generally higher than the land immediately around. This is remarkably so at Builth and Kilpeck, among many others, and was apparently intended to give the domestic buildings greater safety, and an advantage when actually attacked. This distinction does not seem to have been pointed out, and it is possible that upon it may turn the identification of many of the earthworks, the date of which is now unknown.

1874. G. T. C.

THE SOCIETY OF FRENCH ARTISTS.

THE two small rooms at No. 168, New Bond-street, contain what is, in the relation of quality to quantity, the best exhibition in town; one in which every picture has a distinct motive and object, and comes above the average standard in regard to execution and artistic feeling, though the subjects may not be always of the most interesting kind. The place of honour is assigned this year to Corot, whose large work, "St. Sebastian" (28), seems to be, in general composition, suggested by Titian's celebrated "Martyrdom of St. Peter," which is at least recalled by the arrangement of the group of figures on the ground, the tall mass of trees over, and the two attendant cherubs visible in them. But a solemn calm pervades this modern work, both in the figures and the grand dark masses of foliage, in strong contrast to the wild tempestuous action of the Venetian master's work. The same painter is represented by "The Goatherd," more in his usual style (43); "A Corner of the Forest of Fontainebleau" (48), and others. Landscapes predominate: of the few figure-subjects, we may mention Manet's life-size study of "A Spaniard" (4); Madrazo's clever little figure, "In her Boudoir" (6); Alma Tadema's "Wedding Present" (10), two heads in a lozenge-shaped frame bending together over a picture: little more than the eye of the bride is visible behind the head of her partner, but there is much expression of pleasant humour in the work. Roybet's "Negress Charming a Heron" (50) is a splendid study of colour and finish of detail. Veyrassat's horses are as good as ever, as they disembark from "The Ferry-boat" or "Return from Ploughing" (26, 29); and "Camels Resting," with a negro in blue and red dress lying on the ground watching them, by Huguet (65), has

the advantage of novelty as well as excellence. Among the landscapes Daubigny's "St. Paul's, from the Surrey side" (41), and Lambert's "Duck-pond" (24), are highly suggestive; the former is arrayed in a misty atmosphere, which gives the painter opportunity for making the most of his power of dealing with grey tones and uncertain lights. Among the finest things are the landscapes by Marie Cazin, "Wood-gatherers in the Forest of Fontainebleau" and "Harvest-time" (110, 118); the former a noteworthy composition of broken rocky and sandy foreground, with a heavy belt of trees shutting out the distance, and heightening by its dark shadow the effect of the faint gleam of light in the sky above: the management of the light is equally fine in the other work. To a similar class belongs the "Lake Scene," by J. B. Joseph (116), a perfect little poem, with its thick green grass foreground, the dark wooded banks beyond, and the strip of lake white in the wind. Huguet's "White Horses at Grass" (102) is a fine combination of a wide moorland scene, with studies of horses in various attitudes, and foreshortening. Sirley's "Street Scenes" (140, 147) are interesting in their individuality of subject and treatment; and Lecœur's "Street in Montigny" (33) is a small but admirable specimen of a similar class of subject. Belleteau-Poisat shows us the "Lake of Geneva" under a new and, in one sense, prosaic aspect, in his large picture (49) of rough and transparent water, with two ferry-boats at a quay, with their sterns to the spectator. But among the more poetic works in landscape here, none will more certainly compel thoughtful admiration than those of the remarkable painter Michel, neglected and almost unknown during his life, and whose biography is appended to this year's catalogue. His powerful and original studies seize the inner spirit of the landscape which he depicted in such works as "The Slopes of Montmartre" (130), and "A Lonely Spot" (133). It is seldom that we find so powerful and impressive a work as the latter evolved from such an apparently simple and everyday subject: its loneliness seems almost to oppress us as we look at it. In tone and feeling Michel is not unlike our own artist Cotman, also a man neglected in his lifetime; though the French painter strikes perhaps a deeper chord with a more powerful hand.

Those who find pleasure from the intellectual rather than the mechanical reproduction of Nature on canvas, should not miss the exhibition in New Bond-street.

THE CLOISTER.*

"But let my due feet never fail
To walk the studious Cloister's pale,
And love the high embowèd roof,
With antique pillars massy proof."
Milton's "Il Penseroso."

"A Cathedral is an epic poem * * * What lovelier Episode than its Cloisters and Virgin Chapel?"
G. Wightwick's "Palace of Architecture."

Oh, spare the Cloister! (Churchmen, listen!)
To pensive Contemplation dear;
Grave eyes there are with tears would glisten
Should spoiler's hand come here.

To be a learn'd retreat for ever
Were spread its grove-like arches, fair;
And wise and simple, dull and clever,
Have felt its witching air.

Here stay the ruthless workman's hand,
For rarer beauties o'er us steal;
Let this small remnant scathless stand
From your "restoring" zeal.

Oh! might I the fell snake uncoil
Misnamed on earth "Church-Restoration,"
Now spreading o'er St. Hilda's pile
Its barbarous renovation.

And glaring on what best looks down,
O'er street or field, on English people,
Nor Minster's soaring aisle alone,
But humble village steeple.

On fanes where holiest memories dwell,
With legend fraught, and sacred story;
Shedding high Art's and Nature's spell,
O'er saint's and martyr's glory.

That stood in Albion's springtime, bare,
Sole beacons of the Gospel's light,
Where late there shot the lurid glare
Of Druid's horrid rite.

That kept unquench'd Art's precious rays,
And ancient Wisdom's lantern bright;
And temper'd the far-spreading haze
Of Mediæval night.

Made the mild law of Christ command,
O'er sceptred might and realms unbless'd,
And from the feudal tyrant's hand
Protected the oppress'd.

See not ye in each kindling pile
Man's holiest aspirations rise,
Where gable, turret, spire, same while
Seem yearning for the skies?

The hope that heaven and earth inherits,
The love that is Religion's breath,
The faith that bears aloft men's spirits,
Victors o'er Time and Death,

Glow from their pinnacles; and still
They shed fresh glory o'er the earth,
And give to flower, and tree, and rill,
A new and brighter birth.

And Nature loves these fair accessions
To her wide real of breathing things;
And o'er her aisled-and-tower'd possessions,
Her rainbow mantle flings.

Her own wild garlands,—flowers and mosses,—
With Art's symmetric lines combine;
And man's smooth handiwork embosses
With tracery divine.

Now Beauty's self, their faithful keeper,
Sleeps 'neath their blending arches, fair;
And sunlight, when it wakes the sleeper,
Looks lovelier than elsewhere.

Alas! from many a once-loved place,
No more we hear the centuries cry;
Changed is the old familiar face
That bless'd the passer by.

The insulted Muse of History sighs
O'er these her disconcerted pages;
Best record else, so deem the wise,
Of Europe's twilight ages.

And Architecture, vigils keeping,
And marking well each alter'd spot,
I hear, like her in Ramah, weeping
To find her children not.

Then spare the hallow'd Cloister wholly;
Let this secluded haunt alone;
And for some neighbouring work, unholy,
It may in part atone.

The prayer is echo'd,—voice imploring
Comes murmuring with the Atlantic's moan,
From hearts that trust not your "restoring,"
To "Let those aisles alone."

"Let them alone," so oft hath spoken
The pilgrim from Columbia's shore;
Who fain would keep each spell unbroken
Of father-land of yore.

They are not yours, O Dean and Chapter!
But common gifts, heirlooms of Time,
Inherited by all who apt are
To feel their beauty, prime.

What War and Hate left unmolested,—
And storms have pass'd in reverence by,
What years have with new grace invested,
Let not true men destroy.

Think you to wake their pristine beauty?
As soon might vanish'd years come back:
Oh! deem it your most pleasant duty
Their lingering grace to track.

The hands that stamp'd with truest feeling
Each part, so eloquent, all o'er—
The hearts their holiest influence dealing—
Can these your gold restore?

Would the cold masking stone inherit
Shrined memories of the Christian's faith,
And many a dedicated spirit
Not to be quench'd by death?

Such memories 'neath these arches linger,
And breathe, like music, from each stone;
And Nature's beautifying finger
Has mark'd them for her own.

And years, still ripening, may develope
Fresh bloom and beauty to the day;
While ivy, wallflowers, moss envelope,
Or light and shadow play.

SAMUEL HUGGINS.

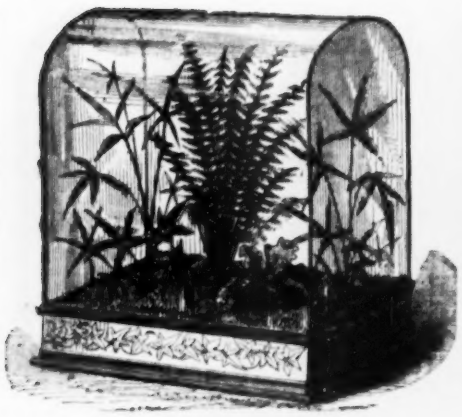
* The following piece was written, a year or two ago, in the cloister of one of the most beautiful and romantically-situated of England's usually finely-placed cathedrals, then in process of "restoration." In behalf of that cloister appeal is now needless; but as the poem involves my argument against "restorations" generally, it is here offered. S. H.

AN EDITORIAL PALACE.

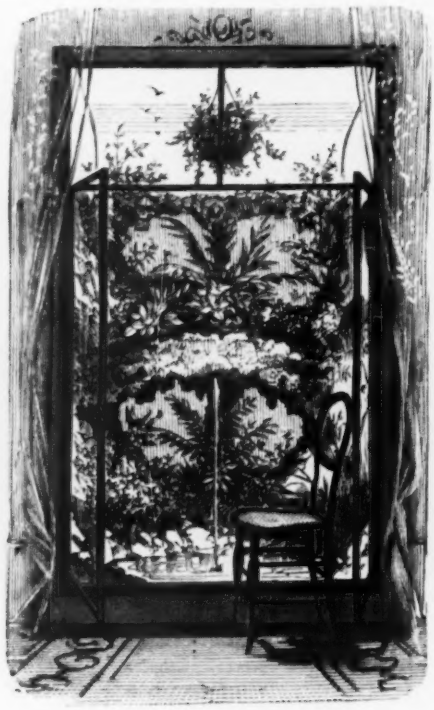
WHATEVER may be thought of the political principles and mode of propaganda of the most famous Parisian representative newspaper, it is impossible to contest the keen, clever foresight, the thorough knowledge of the world possessed by its founder and conductor. For the mass of Parisians,—perhaps of Londoners,—the *Figaro* is the only French newspaper, and M. de Villemessant the supreme French journalist. Of his literary capacity there is little to be said; it is not as a *littérateur* that M. de Villemessant is pre-eminent, but as a practical editor, as an administrator, as a man whose fingers are experienced at the pulse of the age, whose weather-eye is quick, whose eclecticism is so practical that, being a Legitimist himself, he has filled the principal places on his staff with Republican writers. M. de Villemessant has been called the Barnum of journalism: the *sobriquet* is not unmerited, and its possessor is rather proud of it. He is cunning in the arts of advertisement, of "pushing" a sale, and propagating the *Figaro* before everything. He prints fac-similes of Troppmann's drawings, autograph letters from the Two-headed Nightingale, addresses in Arabic to the Shah of Persia; he interviews the Comte de Chambord; and ascertains that M. Thiers drinks four cups of black coffee every morning, and plays tric-trac with his secretary. His last exploit of this kind might be called an architectural puff. More than two years ago M. de Villemessant made public announcement of the fact that he was about to furnish the staff, printers, &c., of the *Figaro* with superlatively comfortable quarters. His primitive idea was that the new building should be an ordinary five-storied house, rendered conspicuous by an enormous sign—the brass shaving-bowl of the legendary barber. But the architect chosen, Aimé Sauffroy, was young and ambitious. He persuaded his employer that the projected hôtel might be made a striking advertisement, and forthwith the present palace of journalism was planned. The Rue Drouot was chosen as the site. The street is narrow, and it was necessary to avoid excessive projections, and to make the most of the limited space at command. To satify these exigencies the Renaissance style was adopted, but as Figaro was created long after Ronsard's period, it was the Spanish Renaissance that M. Sauffroy imitated. As it is, he alleges that his edifice is a specimen of pure Seville art. However this may be, it is certain that the *Figaro* hôtel which has just been completed is unique in Europe as a newspaper office. A summary description of its chief characteristics may serve to show Fleet-street the estimation in which journalism is held by its chief French professor, M. de Villemessant.

The façade is highly ornamented. The jambs and mantel tree of the principal entrance consist of squares of faïence by M. Jules Lœbnitz. The door itself is ornamented with cut steel-work and slabs of marble; the salient edges of the pilasters at the basement are protected by bronze corners. The balconies of the first floor are in iron and the lamps in *repoussé* iron. The edifice is surmounted by an allegorical figure by M. Leon Perrey, representing the presiding Muse of the *Figaro* newspaper, the Genius of Actualité. The most palatial feature of the building is the *loggia*. It forms a saloon open to the streets in which the staff of the *Figaro* will assemble on summer evenings; and on the balcony before them stands the statue of Figaro, executed by MM. Boisseau and Amy. This work was the occasion of one of M. de Villemessant's greatest advertising triumphs. It was announced in the spring of 1873 that a competition would be opened for a life-size statue of Figaro, and in addition to the model destined to be executed in marble, and ornament the façade of the *Figaro* hôtel, the six best statuettes sent in would be purchased for the decoration of the interior. The present statue was selected from fifty-two models, by a committee composed of well-known sculptors and art-critics. It represents Figaro in Spanish dress, his guitar slung behind him, gazing curiously, as though at a subject for his satire, and cutting his pen. It bears the epigraph from Beaumarchais's comedy, "Je taille encore ma plume et demande à chacun de quoi il est question."

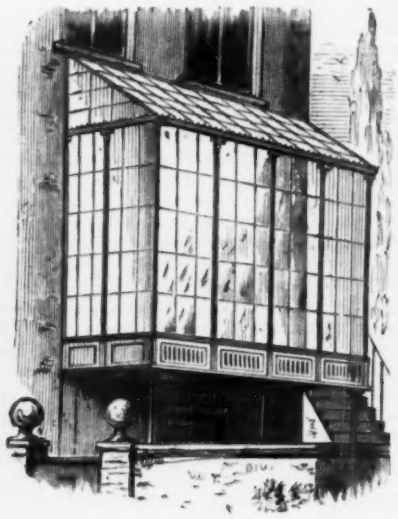
The interior of the editorial palace is ingeniously disposed. A flight of steps leads one under the porch to the vestibule, bordered by two *jardinières* supporting two of the statuettes that obtained second prizes. The first door leads to a large hall elegantly decorated. To the left is the grand staircase, at the foot of which is a lamp-stand formed by the figure of a child in bronze. Opposite the staircase is a species of lodge, where from eight o'clock to midnight a *rédacteur* is stationed to receive confidential communications, the gossip of the clubs and green-rooms, the political and social scandals, and anecdotes of the day. A glass door, with chiselled panels, admits to a second vestibule, bordered by large *jardinières* containing rare tropical plants. Farther on is the large hall occupied by the bureaux, the Spanish *patio*, or covered court, in the centre of which, on a carved wood pedestal, stands the bust of Beaumarchais. On the further side of the court is the council-chamber, and at the right the staircase descending to the machining-rooms. Overlooking the glass roof of the *patio* are galleries communicating at each end with the compositors' and folders' departments. To reach the editorial department, it is necessary to ascend the grand staircase with balustrades ornamented with the letter F in gilded bronze. On the first story are corridors leading to the finance department, the cashiers' and bookkeepers' rooms. At the right a glass door admits to the *loggia*; and on this side are also the private offices of MM. de Villemessant and Magnard, the two editors. At the left is the *rédacteurs'* hall, lighted by a vast bay giving on to the street. At the extremities of this hall



Albert Fern-Case.



Fernery Case outside French Window.



Conservatory built out from House.

are the secretaries' cabinets, near the compositors' workrooms. It is in this hall that the *Figaro* is written. Every member of the staff has his table; but for those whom the incessant babel of tongues hinders, there are silent separate studies at the topmost story. At the second story is situated the reporters' hall, the Bureau des Informations, and a suite of apartments for the use of M. de Villemessant, in order that the guiding spirit of the journal may remain the last at work when any public event of importance takes place. Above these chambers is a characteristic department—the Salle d'Armes, where a fencing-master officiates from morning to night, and pugilists, masters of single-stick and gymnastics are in attendance.

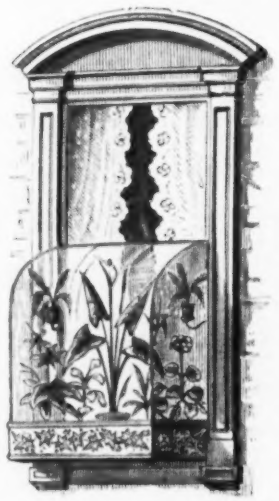
The chief builder of the hôtel is M. Montjoye, one of M. de Haussmann's most valued coadjutors. The stucco work is furnished by M. Hamon, the marble work by MM. Parfoury and Lemaire. The clock-room and campanile should not be forgotten. The dial measures more than a mètre in diameter, and is illuminated at night. Every hour there is a carillon, which plays the first phrase of the air from the "Barbiere," "Largo al factotum." This is a worthy crowning of an edifice dedicated to Figaro, or rather to his more or less able descendants of the Rue Drouot.

WINDOW GARDENING.

IN towns, window gardening has doubtless been practised for centuries, under such difficulties as those alluded to by Cowper:—

> "There the pitcher stands,
> A fragment, and the spoutless teapot here;
> Sad witnesses how close-pent man regrets
> The country, with what ardour he contrives
> A peep at Nature when he can no more."

But of late years great improvements have been made in this graceful and pleasant mode of adorning the dwellings of various ranks, both high and humble. For many years we have occasionally spared a column or so of our journal in the promotion of so cheering and charming an addition to the attractions of domestic life; and it is, therefore, gratifying to us to note the publication of an elaborate illustrated work, such as that on "Domestic Floriculture, Window Gardening, and Floral Decoration," by Mr. F. W. Burbidge.* The author gives practical directions for the propagation, culture, and arrangement of plants and flowers as domestic ornaments, and points out the various appliances of window gardening, from the simplest and least expensive little brackets (such as those registered by Mr. Bachhoffner, of Hatton-garden, of which we lately spoke), to the more elaborate conservatories attached to dwellings.



Ornamental Plant-Case outside Window.

To the new work just named we are indebted for the few remarks on window gardening which we are about to give.

Apart from the beauty of flowers and the pleasure all of us experience in cultivating them around our homes, there is the question of health to be considered. Many object to plants in rooms or apartments on account of their being presumably unhealthy; but, on the contrary, their influence, as Mr. Burbidge believes, is, in most cases, exerted for our health and benefit. Plants of peculiar or disagreeable odour, however beautiful, should not be grown in rooms; but nearly all the flowers we love for their freshness, sweetness, and beauty may, he thinks, be tolerated. Many persons instinctively dislike certain colours or odours, but these will take care of themselves in the matter. The more we know about that seemingly mysterious product, ozone, the stronger evidence do we obtain that it has much to do with the changes in human health, noticeable in different localities, and at various seasons. Hence the cultivation of many shrubs and plants, besides its economical or æsthetic value, has an agency connected with hygiene; for it has been demonstrated that a great many plants grown in gardens produce much ozone, not only under the influence of the sun's rays, but even after dusk. Lavender, Wallflower, Thyme, Sweet Violets, and Mignonette, may be named as examples. It is highly probable that in years to come some part of our dwellings will be constructed expressly for the culture of plants and flowers. At present we have a few conservatories and gardens on the roof, and in time no doubt those and other appliances will become universal, especially in towns where space is valuable. There are but few houses where a charming little fernery might not be constructed for such plants as will luxuriate in partial shade. If a passage or corridor is terminated by a window from which a gloomy prospect of telegraph-wires and blackened chimney-pots is obtained, nothing can be more appropriate in such a position than a large glass case filled with Ferns and other moisture-loving plants. The bottom can be readily cemented to prevent damp, and the whole will form a source of pleasurable interest and beauty instead of annoyance. It will always supply plenty of fresh green fronds and spray for grouping with flowers, and require but little attendance, except occasional syringing with tepid water. Plants are not the exclusive things some people imagine, but may be grown by every one with more or less success in all manner of out-of-the-way places that will readily suggest themselves to those who love and are desirous to grow beautiful flowers.

Most of the pretty little decorative plants brought into the London flower-markets during the summer and autumn months are either seedlings or cuttings grown on in frames or cold pits outside: and these seldom fail to grow well in any ordinary sitting-room window, if properly cared for. Of late years, much improvement has taken place in room and balcony gardening, especially in the neighbourhood of London; and one of the best practical lessons as to the plants suitable for this purpose may be obtained by taking a walk in any of the West-end thoroughfares. Piccadilly and Park-lane generally furnish excellent examples; while nearly all the plants grown in the parks during the summer months are also valuable for rooms and balconies. Where balconies do not exist, or their erection is not practicable, the next best thing is a window-box fitted on the sill outside. These boxes are made of various materials, and of any size. Those of varnished wood, virgin cork, or enamelled tiles, are very pretty, and suited to different styles of architecture. These boxes are well adapted for ordinary bedding plants, hardy climbers, annuals, and hardy and half-hardy bulbs; but if the culture of exotic Ferns be attempted, a neat glass case can be fixed in place of the simple window-box, and in this many of the hardier kinds will luxuriate during summer in all their delicate freshness and

* Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London.

beauty. These cases do not cost much, and may be constructed by any ingenious mechanic or artizan, as an embellishment to his home.

It often happens that the window-gardener is pinched for room, and has to economise the space at his command as much as possible. There are one or two useful little contrivances, such as brackets, for suspending plants on walls, either inside or outside the window. They are simple, and can be used wherever there is a bare inch or two of wall to spare; and it generally happens that there is abundance of bare bricks and mortar about towns that would be all the more attractive if draped with Ivy, Creeping Jenny, Tropæolums, Convolvulus, or any other foliage or flowering plants.

The Fern brick is for building in walls at intervals for the reception of Ferns and drooping plants.

The illustrations of Mr. Burbidge's work show arrangements for fixing inside the window, and by which the look-out is considerably improved. One consists of a simple window-box faced with enamelled tiles, and furnished with a semi-circular wire trellis, over which to train climbers. The box is planted with fresh green trailers and a few flowering plants, raised either from bulbs, seeds, or cuttings, as the case may be. A couple of plants of Ivy, Virginian Creeper, or other graceful climbers, are planted at the corners to cover the arch, and a small hanging basket, planted with Creeping Jenny, Sedum Sieboldii, Tradescantia, or Saxifraga sarmentosa, completes the group. In Paris there are many similar arrangements, but Ficus elastica (India-rubber plant), Oleanders, small Palms, Dracænas, and other hard-leaved foliage plants, and Ferns, were generally used to furnish them. These boxes may be made gay with early-flowering bulbs during the spring months; and a few seeds of annuals, climbers, and foliage plants, together with Fuchsias, Geraniums, and Balsams, will suffice to keep them gay during the summer and autumn.

An aquarium and plant-case combined possesses special attractions to many window-gardeners, as, in addition to the fresh-coloured flowers and foliage, we have the sparkle of the water and the lively motions of its inmates. These aquaria and plant-cases are made in various forms and materials, to suit different positions. Fixed outside the window, they are very ornamental during the summer months. They must be removed in winter, however, or the glass would be broken by severe frosts. Another form consists of a space for plants at each end, and an aquarium in the centre. These are very interesting room ornaments, if placed on a stand or table near the window; and they can be constructed so as to be readily heated, either by a gas-jet or small spirit-lamp. Aquaria are specially valuable to those who possess a microscope, as they afford a never-ending supply of fresh and beautiful objects for study. We have many native plants and animals well worth adding to the indoor plant-case or aquaria; and some of the delicate Mosses and Ferns will grow better on pieces of sandstone, just elevated above the water's edge, than elsewhere.

Many of the more tender and beautiful of flowering plants and ferns do not luxuriate in the arid atmosphere of an ordinary sitting-room when heated throughout the day by a coal-fire, and at night by a coal-fire and gas combined. For such as fail to grow and give satisfaction under the above circumstances, glazed, or, as they are more generally termed, Wardian cases, are recommended. These are elegant and pleasing additions to the most tasteful and elaborately-furnished drawing-room, while some of the more common rustic forms may serve the purpose for which they are intended equally well in the modest sitting-room of the city clerk or artizan. They are made in a great variety of designs; some being extremely light and graceful, and most beautifully finished with delicate enamel and gilding. Either light castings of iron or copper may be employed, or they can be constructed of wood, according to taste; but for durability and lightness the former are preferable. For Ferns, Mosses, Liverworts (*Marchantia*), and many choice and beautiful exotics, these cases are specially adapted—the plants often succeeding much better in them than in the drier temperature of an ordinary greenhouse. They should be furnished with a receptacle of zinc or copper beneath to collect waste or superfluous water, and in some cases this appliance can be made the means of supplying a little extra heat to the case during severe frosty nights by simply filling it up with boiling water. Others are constructed so as to be readily heated by a small oil or spirit lamp; but these contrivances are only required in exceptional cases, and can then be ordered or made accordingly.

In addition to the smaller cases for setting on ornamental stands or tables in the sitting-room, it is possible in many cases to construct a little window-conservatory. Low French windows are specially adapted for this kind of thing; and when tastefully filled with ferns, ornamental trailers, or flowering plants, are highly interesting as seen from the apartment. They can either be constructed outside, or within the room itself. If they are constructed outside, it is a matter of choice whether they should be accessible from without only, or if the window should be glazed in the ordinary way. As to this it depends mainly on the situation; for if it is naturally dry, then there can be no serious objection to its opening into the apartment; but if very damp, perhaps the window had better be glazed with thick crown-glass, so as to be damp-proof, and then all necessary operations can be carried on outside, without any dirt or litter within the apartment. Those who would carry closed-case gardening still further afield may adopt a little "case conservatory," built out from the house. If constructed opposite one of the sitting-room windows the view will be always attractive, and it may also serve as a roof to the area below. Plants grow well in such structures if water be thrown on the floor and stages two or three times a day during hot sunny weather. Canvas blinds on rollers should be provided for shading purposes during summer; and if the culture of tender exotics is proposed, it can in most case be heated by pipes laid on from the fireplace or kitchen-boiler. In such a little house a beautiful and constantly interesting collection of succulent plants, containing several hundred species could be easily grown by the greatest novice at plant-culture; indeed, if he would throw away his watering-pot in November, and merely protect them from frost during the winter months, he could not kill them. Most other plants require watering carefully and regularly; but succulents delight in a sunny position, with a moderate supply of moisture when growing in the summer, and none whatever during the damp cold months of winter.

The work to which we are indebted for these remarks contains a long and valuable illustrated list of plants suitable for room, window, or balcony culture. There are also portions of it devoted to dinner-table decorations and to decorations of churches; and the whole is illustrated by 200 wood engravings.

THE RUSSIAN AND HIS SPECIAL WAY OF WORK.

IT is not a little interesting and instructive occasionally to glance at the position and character of matters artistic and architectural in other and distant countries—in places where the individualities of the people in all things make, in spite of hindrances, them and their arts different from our own. Every now and then, as opportunity offers, we take occasion to remind our readers of what others beside ourselves are doing, and to point to here and there a something out of which some instruction is to be got. Europe is not as yet quite toned down into absolute uniformity, though the course of things tends pretty nearly in all directions to this end, and all the great cities at least are gradually getting to be more and more alike. So different from the past way of work is the present way of it, as to be almost its direct opposite. It is a somewhat strange circumstance, as it seems to us, that this curious state of things has not attracted more of attention than it has, and that some means have not been devised to show to the world, or to us islanders at least, what that momentous change really is which is now going on everywhere, as cities extend their boundaries, and get to be nearer and nearer to each other by railway ties and telegraphic talking. The auspicious visit of the Czar of all the Russias makes that enormous empire, a world in itself, just now not a little interesting, and one naturally inclines to ask what that special Russian empire, among the other empires, and Russian individuality, are doing, whereby it keeps pace with its powerful though lesser neighbours artistically, and in things tending to and guiding matters artistic. What the Russian has already done, what he is now doing, and what he ought to do *out of him-self* as an artist and workman. Curious subjects these—worth glancing at.

It has often struck us, what would have been the thoughts of old Marco Polo could he but rise from his grave to glance at the cities which he looked at with such wondering eyes. Would he think them better or worse? And, on the other hand, what would be the thoughts of our professional and artistic tourists could they but see the Continental cities as he saw them, before railways were dreamed of, and before a thought had arisen of any universal system of improvement. To the eyes of old Marco every fresh city he came to was a new surprise,—an entirely different thing from the last he saw,—a new artistic thought and creation, with new surroundings, and new modes of life, and costume, and manners; almost, indeed, as if he had suddenly found himself in a new planet. Nowadays all this is in rapid course of change, and the modern traveller must needs be on the look-out for things and signs of things, which remind him of the place he has left. "Improvement," as in the building of St. Petersburg, meant, in the mind of its founder, nearness to that London and Woolwich to which he came for the purpose of learning how to go to work to build a city, or a ship, and to "civilise" a people. A remarkable man indeed was the Czar Peter in very many ways, and it would be a right curious subject of speculation to consider what such a man, with so intensely active a mind and faculty, would have done had he built his new capital city out of materials got from old Muscovy, and from "precedent" to be found in that singular phase of things which gave birth to the Russian individuality. What has been the loss and gain? A gain there has been doubtless, but at how immense a cost!

It may be interesting, therefore, just now, to glance for a moment at the two great Russian cities, wide apart as they are in so many ways, and thoroughly characteristic of the times, past and present, of Russian life and history. Moscow, or Moskva, the old capital, made so famous during the days of the first Napoleon, is a place of note in many ways, more than half oriental; indeed, a strange mixture of European and Asiatic feeling and idea. A tortuous river runs through it; it is surrounded by a high wall,—a walled city; and the multitude of its narrow and irregular streets thoroughly realises to one the old way of town and city-building, and planning, wherein *accident* is found to have done more than half the work in the production of it,—and of the "picturesque." The celebrated Kremlin, nearly in the very centre of the city, is surrounded by an immense white wall, 60 ft. high, and about a mile round, flanked by towers, forming the nucleus of the city,—a remarkable picture, in the middle of a town, and hardly conceivable by the inhabiters of a modern and ordinary city. This alone is enough to make the Russian Moscow a city of note, with a distinct individuality of its own. But there is more. There is a second quarter, the "Kitai Gorod," or Chinese city, fenced round by another wall, with more towers and buttresses,—a city of mark indeed,—full of strange things and oriental thoughts, and full of green trees too, like Damascus; for round the Kremlin, as a centre, two large circles have been drawn, the circumference of each one consisting of wide belts of finely-planted trees,—a delightful thought in a crowded city, and full of refreshing influences. The zone between the Kremlin and the Chinese city, the Kitai Gorod, is named the Beloi Gorod, or White City; the other zone is the "Zmelnoi Gorod." The burning of Moscow in 1812 did but little in changing the direction or character of the streets of this strange place; these streets being as uneven and tortuous as ever. Numerous "paltry lanes," as the "Guide" says, open all at once into magnificent squares; and rows of "little yellow wooden houses" abut on vast colossal structures. But in spite of our respectable guide, we must contend that it is just here that the really picturesque and architecturesque opens out on us, for it is down these narrow and tortuous ways, opening out into wider spaces, with colossal sights in the far distance, that the real artistic secret and mystery lies. A city cannot be made up wholly of "glittering gold" and "brightened silver," or wholly of grand squares. There must needs be contrast. There is here the old Palace of the Czars, of four stories, each one of them smaller as you ascend, till the top-most of all contains but a single room. It is surrounded with balconies, with stairways to each story, a sort of Tower of Babel in miniature. There is the Cathedral too, in which the Russian

Emperors are crowned, with all the pomp and state and ceremony which one can but barely fancy in the old Gothic days, when Art was in living action. It was founded in 1325, and was certainly built in an age when nobody in the architectural way thought of *copying!* And then, for we must needs pause somewhere, there is darkness visible in the Church of St. Michael, wherein all that remain of the Russian Czars lie entombed, from the Czar Ivan to the Great Czar Peter. An imposing and solemn house of the mighty dead, with memories not of themselves alone, but of the many millions whom they ruled over so despotically and with such absolute sway. On the walls, in fresco, close to his dead body, there is painted his "figure" in a white robe—all that remains of each Czar!

By way of perfect contrast to this quaint and antique city of Moscow, we may now glance, but for a moment, at St. Petersburg, the modern capital, almost water-surrounded, for advantage has been taken in its building of the many branches of the river,—the Neva,—as they flow into the Gulf of Finland; indeed, the city is built on a series of islands. So low is the site, that but for the domes and spires of the churches, the city cannot be seen till you are close upon it,—indeed, one may say actually in it. Unlike tortuous Moscow, the streets of this modern city are straight as arrows, unbroken by the slightest interruption. The architecture of it, it need hardly be said, is "Renaissance," more or less pure or impure. It is impossible to contemplate such a place as this without a feeling of regret that some kind of *indigenous* architecture, purely Russian, did not grow up while it was building, and which might have developed itself in the very act of that building and necessary contriving. It was a magnificent opportunity unhappily lost, for the Russian seems to have a certain vague feeling for the large and colossal. St. Petersburg is approached for long miles through an almost savage wilderness, a low swamp, flat, and covered with lakes and swamps, and enormous forests—pathless and gloomy forests; so that out of it might well be supposed to rise, not a Renaissance, or even a Gothic city, but a something *sui generis*,—a new architectural and artistic idea,—a something in short purely and entirely Russian! Leave the Russian to his own ways, and thoughts, and materials, and modes of work, and with his despotisms to command and to guide, what wonders of new giant strength and original forms might he not bring forth?

It would most surely be impossible to overestimate the vast importance and influence of these visits, such as the Czar is now making to our insulated and island home. It does as much as can be done to bring two different nations together, and so far to make of them one, and to confirm that harmony between them which all must so much desire. But with all this there is no little danger in it. In the very nature of things, this very harmony has a tendency to make them alike, and by mutual borrowing and giving, to make what they do the same. The fine art of England and the fine art of Russia are surely distinct things, and ought to be so. In climate, productions, *mental* power in the people, and, what is quite as much, in power and kind of *hand* work, there most surely is, and must be, and ought to be, a difference and wide enough distinction between the two distinct races and countries. Is it desirable to make them alike,—for the Russian to build as the Englishman builds, for them to paint as we paint, and for them to carve and sculpture as we carve and sculpture? The great tendencies of the time are most undoubtedly towards this amalgamation of powers, and this intermingling of processes, and interchange of materials. But this, whatever may be its advantages, must tend powerfully to weaken the resultant acts, and to destroy the individuality of each. We have seen some wood-carving by Russian peasants, of animal forms peculiar to Russia, which most surely could not have been made any the better by the borrowing in any way from foreign sources, so thoroughly characteristic and *national* were they; so much so, indeed, that we could not imagine any but a native-born Russian doing the work. It took us back in thought to old Muscovy, and to the days of the founders of the great and colossal power which now stretches from sea to sea. We could not help putting it to ourselves, how far and in what way could even an old Greek of the Phidias time *improve* on this truly characteristic work? Why, *refine* on it, some may perhaps be inclined to answer. May be so; but then in this very process of refining would no little of the rude,—nay, savage,—life, so apparent in the carving, be sacrificed, and thus so much of the individualised work made to disappear, and its strict nationality,—its intense "Russianism," if we may use the term,—helplessly lost? We cannot but think that such considerations as these are worth the attention of those why are so eager to borrow, and so willing to lend. It is impossible to have the intense sunlight and the parched sand, and the glacier ice and leaden sky, in the same picture. We must be content to have first one and then the other. In this wonderful world, and of which, after all, we have seen and know so little, there is an infinity of differences, as there needs must be; and it is certain that the colourless poles and the sunlit equator are distinct things, and nothing is to be got by attempts to amalgamate them. North and South Russia, even, are themselves distinct,—the Crimea and Northern Siberia,—and it would seem to be all but impossible to find an art or an architecture common and suitable to both, so wide apart and so different in their surroundings are they. In the nature of things this is so, and the great effort of the future will be to elicit from each separated individuality what it has in it peculiar to itself. No place on earth could profit more by taking this thought to heart than Russia, by its individualised people and by its Czar.

HOMES OF WORKPEOPLE IN EUROPEAN TURKEY.

THE dwelling-houses for example, of the labouring classes, in the valleys of Ram-ili, are built of sun-dried squares of clay, with chopped straw to bind it; wetted clay, with chopped straw, is used as cement. The foundations are composed of stone rubble, and are carried to a height of 12 in. to 18 in. from the surface of the ground. On the stone layer, which is likewise cemented with clay and straw, the sun-dried bricks are laid; at certain prescribed intervals the walls are bound by rough-hewn strips of wood,—oak, beech, or pine, according to circumstances,—which are laid in parallel rows along the outer and inner edges of the rising wall, and held together by means of cross pieces fastened to them by iron nails. The pent roof is almost invariably tiled. In some localities slabs of a kind of cross-grained slate or shale are used for the purpose; these being heavy, the rafters which support them require to be proportionately strong, and consequently this style of roofing is considerably more expensive than the light kiln-baked gutter tiles. The house rarely consists of more than one room, in which the labourer and his family live together. The dimensions of the single room vary between 15 ft. by 15 ft., and 12 ft. by 10 ft. superficial, and the height 8 ft. to 10 ft. from floor to ceiling. There is always an open fireplace nearly level with the floor; it is provided with a flue for carrying off the smoke. The one or two windows are very small, are never glazed, but are closed with a wooden shutter which, when open, lies within the thickness of the walls. In the walls, which are 30 in. to 36 in. thick, are left two or more recesses, fitted with shelves; and all around the inner walls, near the ceiling, there is a narrow wooden shelf. Wooden pegs, stuck into the walls, serve to support a variety of articles. The walls are plastered within with clay and whitewashed. The floor is of hard clay, overlaid with coarse rush matting in the places where the inmates sleep in winter time. During the summer they prefer sleeping in the open air, or under a sort of verandah with which some of the houses are provided. The material of which the walls are made, their great thickness, small windows and doors, all contribute to keep the interior warm during the winter. A chip of resinous wood serves as light, although light is not long required, since the habit is to retire very early to rest, and to rise shortly before daylight. The labourer and his family sleep on the floor, either upon the rush mats or else upon goat's-hair sacking. All sleep in the clothes in which they have done their work.

Those who can afford the expense, provide themselves with a copper stew-pan; but for the most part an earthenware pan or pot, costing 2d. or 3d., is their only cooking utensil. The meal of the day labourer and peasant is composed of a dish of stewed beans or lentils, which, with the addition of onions or leeks, salt, pickled cabbage, and green peppers, and garlic and red pepper, as a condiment, are eaten with the half-baked brown bread of mixed grain, maize, wheat, barley, or oats, in varying proportions, which constitute the staple of their food.

The house described is one of the lowest order. If a labouring man has been at all prosperous, he may have two or more rooms to his house, besides stabling for live stock, and outhouses for fodder. The average cost of a house of sun-dried bricks, is 25*l.* per room. The skilled workmen and artizans, who have their homes in the larger villages and in the towns, are generally provided with more comfortable and better furnished houses. The ground floor, with two or more rooms, and a passage between them, is built of stone rubble, laid in lime and sand mortar: the upper floor is composed of a framework of woodwork, the interstices of which are filled in with sun-burnt bricks, and plastered within and without either with clay whitewashed, or else with lime and sand stucco. The floors and ceilings are planked, and the windows glazed. There are fireplaces only in the lower rooms, which the family live in during the winter. Of this kind of house, with rooms varying from two to twelve, the towns in Turkey are mostly built.

In Koordistan the labouring-classes are very badly housed. Their dwellings, generally speaking, consist of a small cow-house, and two rooms made of mud and rough stones, with walls 3 ft. thick on the ground-floor, all communicating one with another, covered with a heavy earthen roof also 3 ft. thick, laid on large bare pine poles. The walls, as the ceilings, are bare, and pierced with small glazed windows, which in winter are pasted over with oiled paper to exclude the cold. Ventilation there is none, and the previously stifling atmosphere is increased by the only means available to the poorer classes for warming their dwellings. Owing to the want of coal, and the scarcity, and consequently exorbitant demands of wood and charcoal dealers, fire is maintained by burning cakes called "tezeh." This is made of dried cow and horse dung, collected during summer and winter in a trough, which stands at the side of every house, mixed with straw. The cakes are burned in deep circular holes sunk in the ground, in which also the greater part of the family food is cooked. Such a contrivance, called a "tundoor," is insufficient in itself to provide the necessary warmth during the penetrating cold of the country: so over the tundoor is placed an open framework of wood, covered with a large thick woollen quilted cloth large enough to extend several feet all round. The different members of the family, when not employed, sit under this quilt during the day, wrapping it about them as well as they can, so as to concentrate the heat of the tundoor as much as possible about their extremities.

In Koordistan there are no divisions in the several branches of work belonging to each occupation; thus, for instance, the carpenter is, while executing the rudest work, at the same time a kind of cabinet-maker, joiner, sash-frame worker, and not unfrequently a mason as well. The mason is also, as occasion requires, a stone-cutter, a plasterer, or bricklayer. As architects are unknown, he it is too who invariably plans the house and provides the estimates of expense, which he does remarkably well, considering that he can neither read nor write, and carries on the work simply by rule of thumb. Although attempts are made in building and furnishing the better class of houses, to ornament ceilings, &c., they are universally ill-built, and the carpentering such that windows and doors never shut properly, and the furniture nothing more than crazy deal benches, whose shabbiness and coarse condition are hidden by gaudy tawdry cloths.

CONSTITUTION OF THE OFFICE OF WORKS.

WE hear that a Commission has been appointed, consisting of Lord John Manners, First Commissioner of Public Works in 1868; the Hon. W. Adam, the First Commissioner who succeeded Mr. Ayrton; Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Secretary of the Treasury; and Mr. Austin, late secretary of the office, for the purpose of reporting on the results of the changes in the office and its officers, which had been introduced when Mr. Lowe was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

One effect of those changes, visible enough to the public, was the delay in proceeding with several public buildings, such as the Law Courts, the South Kensington Museum, the Natural History Museum (which still creeps on at snail's pace), the National Gallery, and the Bethnal Green Museum.

HOMES OF DUTCH WORKPEOPLE.

IN the Netherlands the workman is even more particular than his British rival about having a house to himself, and this laudable feeling extends to the poorest artizan. Hence, the miniature houses which are to be seen here and there in every old town, and which strike the stranger as so peculiar. There are instances where the width of the whole house barely exceeds that of the street-door, and where a good-sized bed would certainly extend from wall to wall.

In every town one meets with blocks or rows of houses built expressly for the working classes. They are mostly on the same model, the size not allowing of any great variety. The more modern have been built in rows outside of the towns; the older are to be seen in the more crowded parts. Passing down a street, one notices here and there a narrow passage about 4 ft. wide, which, at first sight, might be taken for a backway to one of the adjoining houses. But entering by this narrow passage one steps out between a double row of neat brick houses, enclosing a garden divided off by low hedges or palings into a number of small plots, three or four paces square, each one belonging to the house opposite to it. There may be a dozen houses on each side all precisely alike, and forming a single property. A common pump usually stands in the centre of the enclosure. The garden-plot of each house, though so small, must be accounted valuable, for few of the houses of this class are without something of the kind; they serve as drying-grounds for the clothes of the family, or for the pots and pans which are being continually cleaned, and in which the housewife takes so much pride.

On entering a house, one stands in a room about 15 ft. square, provided with a single window in front; a chimney in one of the side walls is fitted with a small stove, the property of the tenant, which sufficiently answers the purposes of heating and cooking. In another wall are one or two cupboards, the crockery-closet, and pantry of the establishment; while a larger recess, fitted with a bed and concealed by a curtain, forms the sleeping-place of the parents of the family. The floor is generally boarded, though not always; the walls, about 8 ft. or 9 ft. high, are plastered and whitewashed, unless papered by the tenant. The furniture of the room is generally sufficient for its size, and carefully kept. There is no back-door or yard. In a corner of the room is a steep, narrow staircase, leading to the room above, where sleep the younger members of the family. An air of order and propriety pervades the whole establishment, and gives evidence that neatness and cleanliness are regarded as among the first of the household virtues.

For a house such as described the rent is about 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week in a town like the Hague. In the small country towns it is naturally less. Such houses are supposed to return 10 per cent. to their owners, for which some deduction must be made for taxes and repairs.

In the newer portions of most of the large towns, and towards their outskirts, long rows of houses have been built on land, which, having cost less in the purchase, has been more liberally distributed. These houses, though about the same size as others, have been arranged with more regard to some of the comforts and necessities of life; a covered place in the middle of the row has been reserved for a common pump and washhouse; the walls of the upper room rise higher before slanting off the roof; the gardens are larger; and instead of the houses being built in back courts, they are arranged in streets; or parallel rows of them placed back to back, and with pretty gardens separating the blocks which abut themselves on some wide street or canal at one end, while the other is bounded by the open fields. Nothing can be healthier than such an arrangement, and the rents of such cottages do not exceed that of those in town.

Within the last six or seven years have sprung up model lodging-houses for the labouring classes, being built by companies issuing their bonds with coupons, paying fixed dividends amounting to 5 per cent. per annum. In some of these cottages a not unsuccessful attempt has been made to attain the advantages of the Continental flat system without doing violence to the prejudices of the tenants in favour of separate houses. They are built in rows like the other cottages and with double rows looking opposite ways into separate gardens. A front door opens towards each garden. The cottage is inhabited by two families. One owns the ground floor, consisting of two rooms looking opposite ways, and has the sole enjoyment of the garden-plot on one side. The other family inhabits the upper story to which there is direct access by a staircase leading up from a front door on the opposite side, and has the exclusive use of the other garden as well as an attic in the roof. The idea of this arrangement is that as the houses are built in rows, and as the two families which inhabit any one house have separate doors and separate gardens on the opposite sides of the house, they have even less to do with each other and see less of each other than they do of their next-door neighbours, and have every opportunity therefore of remaining as much strangers to each other as though they were in the next street, which indeed they may be said to be. The economy in cost of construction and in space of this plan over that of two separate houses placed back to back is apparently limited to there being but one staircase instead of two, though even this sounds more than it really is, inasmuch as staircases used merely to mount to the sleeping-apartments need not be either so large or expensive as the one which is the only means of communication for a whole family with the street below. The leading advantage appears to be, the free current of air which may at any moment be obtained by either family by means of windows facing opposite directions. Though built with every convenience and improvement which can be reasonably expected, the rent for the ground-floor at the Hague, for example, is not more than 2s. 1d., and the upper portion which has the advantage of an attic, 2s. 8d., per week.

The Dutch artizan can live comfortably and contentedly on what would ill suffice to satisfy the wants of an English labourer. The usual wages of a skilled artizan, such as a carpenter, joiner, plumber, or smith, may be reckoned in the larger towns of Holland at about 16s. per week; his wife, perhaps, adds 3s. or 4s. by taking in washing; and the man himself, by working out of doors on odd jobs, often adds another shilling or two. A steady family would thus find the united earnings not fall far short of 22s. a week.

The hours of labour in the summer are generally twelve, including intervals for two or three meals. These consist of breakfast at about eight, dinner about midday, and occasionally tea towards the evening. Breakfast consists of a sandwich made of a thin slice of a peculiar high-flavoured, but not unpalatable, black bread with butter, and coffee with milk and sugar. Dinner always begins with potatoes; after which comes a mess of carrots, turnips, or other vegetables, boiled together in a liberal allowance of fat; fish, when in season; and it is followed by a cup of tea. Beer is not drunk at meals, as with us; there is plenty of water, and the gin-shop is occasionally visited. If the workmen frequent the cook-shop, they get their fill of greasy potatoes and other vegetables for twopence. Meat is rarely tasted by the working classes; it forms no part of the bill of fare either for the man or his family; if ever indulged in, it is at the Sunday meal, when the whole household share the delicacy. If prosperous and happy, the Dutch workpeople owe it to their own patient industry, their provident habits, and their natural contented disposition. In Mr. Nicholl's report to her Majesty's Government on the condition of the Dutch workpeople, he observes, "Nothing can exceed the cleanliness, the personal propriety, and the apparent comfort of the people of Holland. I did not see a house or a fence out of repair, or a garden that was not carefully cultivated." The people "appear to be strongly attached to their Government, and few countries possess a population in which the domestic and social duties are discharged with such constancy."

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION: THE QUEENSLAND ANNEXE.

A GOOD deal still remains to be done before the Exhibition of the current year can be pronounced complete, but happily steady progress is being made. Numerous objects of the most interesting character, some of them from far distant countries, are being added almost daily to the remarkable and fairly complete,—in some instances very full and rich,—groups, in different departments of the fine arts, in lace, leather-work, sanitary appliances, and machinery in motion that have been exhibited daily since the Exhibition opened.

Recently, the productions of the fertile colony of Queensland were offered for public inspection. A good many of the cases are still empty, but there is sufficient in the number, variety, and character of the exhibits, and especially in their admirable arrangement, to make the little section well worth a visit. The scientific and methodical arrangement of the objects shown last year, has been retained very wisely; and visitors are enabled to inspect, systematically, specimens of the rocks, soils, and productions of the Alluvial, Cretaceous, Mezozoic, Carbonaceous, Palæozoic, Devonian, Metamorphic, Granitic, Trappean, and Volcanic districts and formations. The coloured photographs, and other cleverly-executed coloured illustrations, are in themselves an interesting exhibition, and well fitted to give not only an accurate idea of the varied character of the districts represented, but also of their flora and fauna, and of the habits and pursuits of the colonists.

The productions include a profuse variety of the beautiful woods of the colony, in specimens of different species of the auricaria, the eucalyptus, the acacia, &c. Among other vegetable productions, numerous fine specimens are shown of hemp, cotton, sugar, coffee, tea, maize, wheat, and other cereals, tobacco, bark for tanning, from the desert sandstone, and wines from richer regions. The animal productions include, as might have been expected, numerous specimens of cocoons and silk, of leather and leather goods, and of wool of different kinds and in various conditions as regards washing and dressing. The mineral productions of the colony are rich and varied; one of the most notable exhibits in this department is a splendid block of malachite (part polished), and metallic copper from the Peak Down Mines; there are also numerous large ingots of pure copper and tin, specimens of copper ore, gold nuggets, specular iron from Gilbert River, lode tin, crystals of tin ore, beautifully-veined agates and pebbles, crystals, lustrous opals, marbles, white, grey, red, and variegated, of almost all varieties of colour. In addition to these there are numerous specimens of coal from the valuable, and, in some instances, easily accessible, mines of the colony, with samples of iron ore, fireclay, &c.

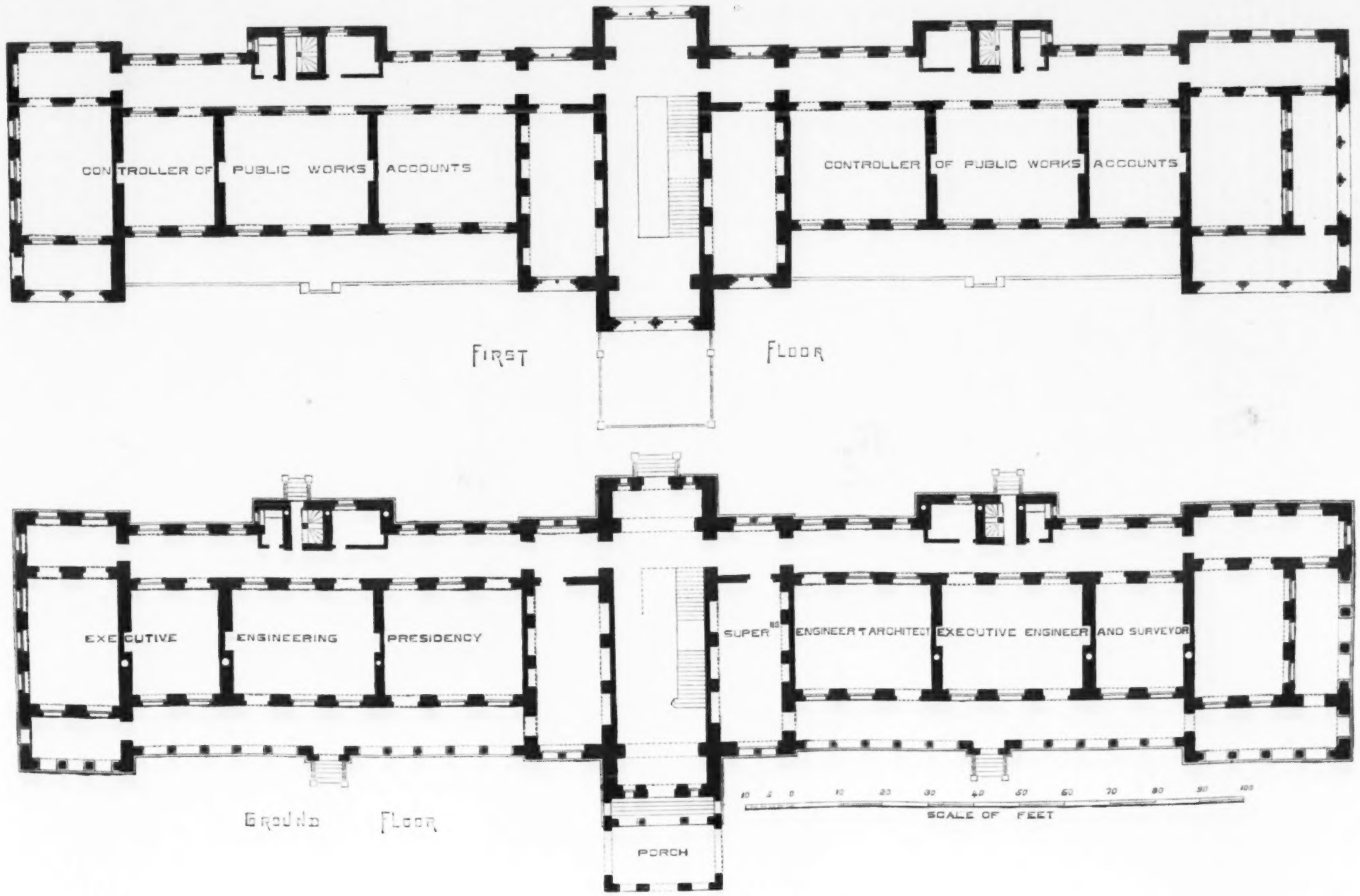
A number of very interesting objects have been placed recently in the annexes, consisting of leather, whips, harness, and saddlery; Belgian furniture (very superb), models of vine farms, drawings by students in the art-schools and others, many of them of lace, brocades, and other fabrics, excellent in design, and exquisite in delicacy of tracery and execution. A group of Japanese objects in bronze vases, porcelain tablets, screens, &c., are characteristic, and well worth examination and scrutiny.

PUBLIC WORKS OFFICES, BOMBAY.

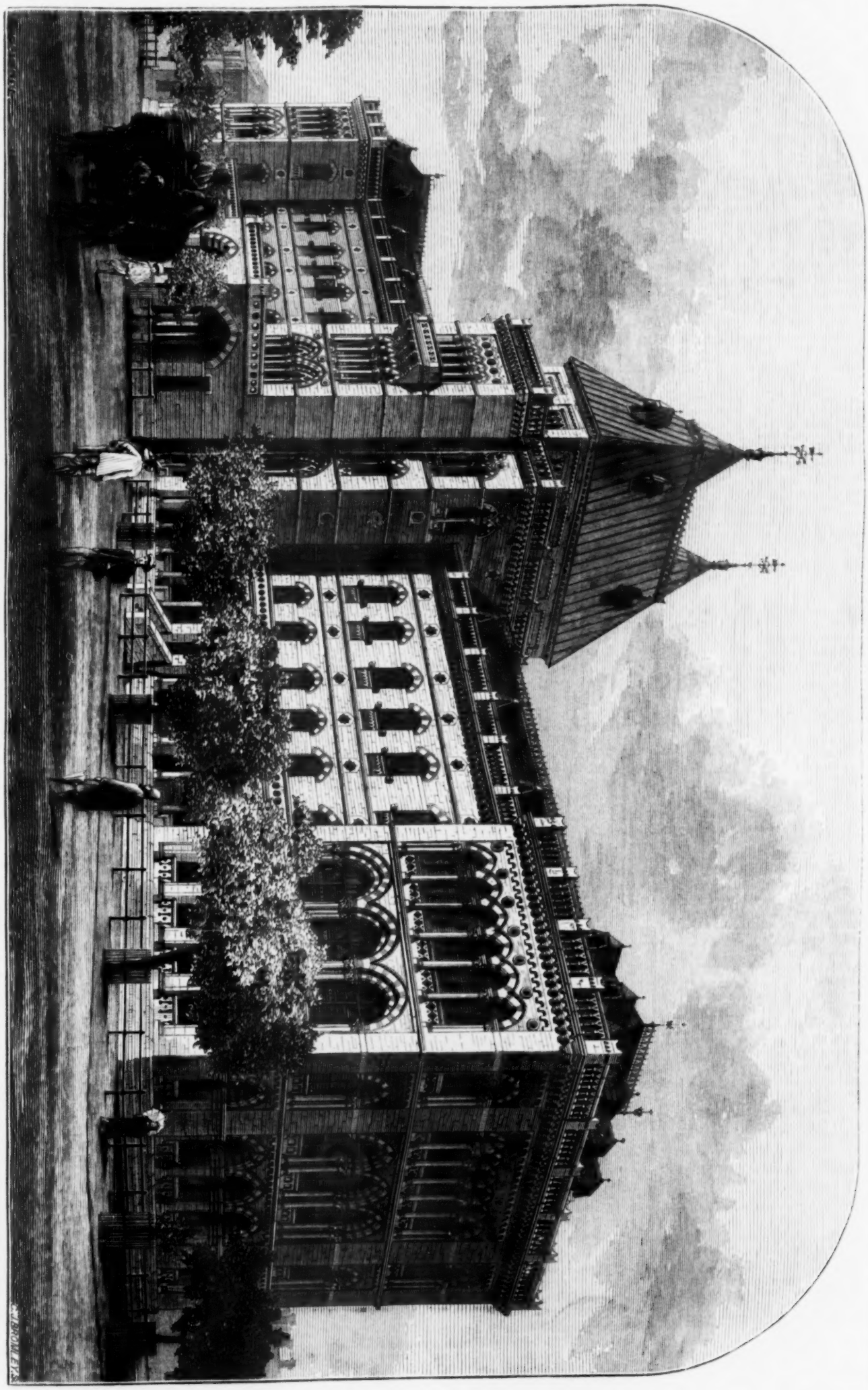
THE building for the Public Works Offices is erected on the Esplanade in continuation of Church Gate-street. It was designed by Colonel St. Clair Wilkins, Royal (late Bombay) Engineers, and faces the Post-office. The walls are built of blue basalt rubble masonry, faced with a similar basalt, roughly dressed on the face, in courses of 4 in. to 5 in. in height, no stone being less in length than twice its height. The dressings are in calcareous sandstone, obtained from Porebunder in Kattiawar, and in some instances in Coorla buff basalt. The square piers of the ground-floor are in Coorla stone, and the circular columns, as well as the detached columns, of all windows, &c., throughout the building are in Porebunder stone. The principal staircase is in blue basalt, and the roof covered with the Broomhall Tile and Brick Company's patent red roofing-tile over teak framing. The ground-floor is paved with Minton tiles, and the upper floors are teak boarding over concrete sounding between skew-joists over ¾-in. planked ceiling, with the exception of the corridors, which are paved with Minton tiles over concrete and Porebunder stone, 2½-inch slabs, and teak joists.

The contractors were Messrs. Scott, M'Clelland, & Co., of Bombay, and the building has cost 10¾d. per cubic foot (cubical contents above ground being alone taken). Colonel John A. Fuller is the architectural executive engineer and surveyor of the presidency division. The building was erected under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Wassoodew Bappoojee, assistant engineer.

The Coventry Sewage Works.—We are asked to say that these works were planned by Mr. Baldwin Latham, C.E., and carried out by the General Sewage Company's engineer, Mr. Melliss.



PUBLIC WORKS OFFICES, BOMBAY.—*Plans.*



PUBLIC WORKS OFFICES, BOMBAY.—COL. ST. CLAIR WILKINS, R.E., ARCHITECT.

IMPROVEMENT OF LONDON POOR-CLASS DWELLINGS.

THE recent debate in the Commons gives great hope of decided measures being soon taken by the Government for carrying out some such improvement of metropolitan poor-class dwellings as is already being carried out, to a certain extent, at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Liverpool. There was an earnestness and practical expression in the language of the various speakers in the debate, which show how strong a hold the subject has taken on public opinion; and to a sanitary pioneer like the *Builder* this is highly satisfactory, and shows us clearly that our labours, and those of others, in the cause, for the last quarter of a century and more, shall now soon be rewarded by practical and general results. We cannot report the debate, but must record an abstract of the speech of Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, who originated it, and of Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, who responded heartily to the call upon his attention and upon that of the Government. Mr. Waterlow, Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens, and other able and influential Members of Parliament, took part in the debate.

Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth said he desired to call special attention to the urgent importance of the problems connected with the present condition and future improvement of the dwellings of working people in London. The right hon. gentleman now at the head of the Government, in laying down his programme at Manchester, adopted, as his motto, "*Sanitas, Sanitatum, omnia Sanitas.*" In order to show the special need for improvement in the dwellings of the working classes in London, the hon. member stated his own experience of the last few weeks, during which he had made it his business to visit the different parts of the metropolis, with the view of ascertaining the real state of things in connexion with this subject. Among other places, he had been through certain courts in the neighbourhood of Holborn, through the whole parish of St. Giles, and through a place, in the neighbourhood of that House, called Bedfordbury. Although hon. members who made short cuts in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's-inn might see many places which they would not like to live in, they could have no idea of the wretchedness of the houses which were situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Parliament itself. Among the places he saw there were a great many very narrow courts, approached by tunnels under houses, in which there could not be the slightest ventilation. In many instances houses were built back to back, or else with a small space between their backs, which was filled with the most disgusting matters, contaminating the air. The fronts of other houses looked upon the backs of their neighbours' dwellings, and upon the sanitary arrangements which were situated there. He had seen in Bedfordbury numbers of houses which were built entirely of wood, and in Drury-lane numbers built simply of lath and plaster, and consequently liable to be rapidly consumed by fire. Such houses were of great antiquity, and were erected long before any Building Act had been passed or sanitary arrangements were thought of. The reports of the medical officers of the local government in 1865, and of the medical inspectors of Whitechapel in 1874, showed that many of the dwellings of the poor in London were wretched and abominable in the extreme, and were unfit for human habitation. What he had been describing were large areas available as sites for the building of improved dwellings for the working classes, for all those great spaces which were covered with those bad houses could be made use of if they were cleared, and if Parliament said distinctly that they should be made use of for proper habitations for the poor.

But there was another class of sites which existed in London. If any hon. member would walk through Farringdon-street, he would see large spaces lying waste, which was not only an injury to the corporation who might own the property, but also to the surrounding occupiers and shopkeepers, and to the working classes who were living in the neighbouring overcrowded parts of London. There were unsold sites in Westminster, in the neighbourhood of Goswell-street, in Paddington, and elsewhere, which could not be purchased without compulsory powers. There existed in London a plentiful supply of sites, and there was a large demand for them. The question was how to bring the demand to touch the supply.

What had been done in Glasgow might at least be pointed to as a hopeful precedent when they proposed to deal with the evils that existed in London. In some respects London was better off than Glasgow. If the Metropolitan Board of Works were invested with the necessary powers they would be enabled, by the issue of a 3½ per cent. stock, to obtain money much more cheaply than the Glasgow authorities had been able to do. No doubt they had not in the City of London a great reforming municipal corporation, like that of Glasgow, with powers extending over the whole metropolis, but we ought not to delay improvements till that reform occurred. If compulsory powers, similar to those granted to the Glasgow Corporation, were given to the Metropolitan Board of Works, and if they failed to use them, the powers would be ready for their successors.

What he proposed was that eligible sites should be acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works, under powers similar to those conferred upon the Corporation of Glasgow, and that the land should be again sold by them, although it might be desirable, as in the case of Edinburgh, to give them power to rebuild to a certain extent.

Not a session passed in which compulsory powers were not granted to railway companies and for street improvements, and why should they be withheld when a measure of much greater national importance,—the improvement of the condition of the working-classes,—was in question? It would be necessary also to meet the case of improvable dwellings which were not so bad as to need to be taken down, but which required repairs. He would, in conclusion, express a hope that the Home Secretary would not confine himself to replying to his observations and arguments, but would state what he proposed to do. The time for merely saying that something ought to be done was past. The hon. member then moved, "That, in the opinion of this House, a necessity exists for some measure that will provide for the improvement of the poorest classes of dwellings in London, and that this question demands the early attention of her Majesty's Government."

Colonel Hogg said that the Metropolitan Board were anxious to do everything they could to benefit the metropolis, and nothing more beneficial could be done than improving the dwellings of the poor. He had himself gone through some places so horrible that he did not know how human beings could dwell in them. His hon. friend who had made this motion, wanted to bring sites to those who had a demand for them. There would, he should think, be no great difficulty in that. The powers, however, which the hon. gentleman would confer, would require to be used with the greatest possible caution, because, while one man might think a house ought to be pulled down, the owner might be of a very different opinion. If, however, Parliament should think fit to invest the Board with these new powers, the Board would exercise them to the best of their ability.

Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, said his hon. friend the member for Hastings need have made no apology either to the House or to the Government, for having brought the subject under discussion before them that evening. Speaking for himself, he would say that no one question out of the whole range of those which were likely to come before the House was nearer or dearer to his own heart. The most effectual way to put down drunkenness, for example, was to improve the homes of the poor, to make those homes happy, and to induce men to come to them as their greatest recreation, instead of permitting them to live, as they were now compelled to do, in wretched dwellings, to which it was no wonder they had no great desire to return after a hard day's work, and from which they absented themselves as much as possible, leaving their wives and children in misery and poverty.

As to the body to be invested with the requisite authority, the Corporation of London and the Metropolitan Board had been named, and other plans had been submitted to him which deserved consideration, but he wished to reserve any opinion on that point. As to the apprehended increase of the rates, there might be a small rate imposed for erecting these buildings, but a much larger amount might be saved in the case of gaols, lunatic asylums, and hospitals, for any large operation of this kind would so materially improve the condition of the people that, in the long run,—he did not say immediately,—the rates ought to be reduced rather than increased. In speaking of rates, moreover, the sick and death-rate of the metropolis must be remembered, and these must have great weight with any Government which considered the question. It had been stated that the average death-rate per 1,000 was 21·5, whereas in the improved dwellings it was only 15·8, a very striking fact; and the sick-rate being always about double the death-rate, the comparison between the improved dwellings and the present houses became still more striking.

The hon. member for Pembrokeshire (Mr. Scourfield) had objected to any vague proposal; but he could assure him, that if the Government took up the question they would produce an intelligible measure which could be easily carried out, and would not produce uneasiness in the quarters where it had hitherto existed, while it would avoid the objections which had been pointed out in the course of the debate.

The Government had given two pledges of its disposition to act in the matter without further delay than necessarily attended the treatment of such a question, for it had frustrated the attempt of the Midland Railway to escape the Lords' Standing Order, and it had determined to consider what Standing Order should be submitted to the House to prevent a recurrence of such attempts. He hoped, therefore, the House would be satisfied that it was the earnest desire of the Government, the moment they could settle, not only the principles, but the details, of the measure, to carry out the spirit of the motion. The subject was engaging their serious attention, and the moment they could do so they would introduce a measure with the full intention of carrying it, with a view of securing to the people of the metropolis dwellings equal to those in other parts of the country, in which they could grow up, not slaves, but really men and women, in the enjoyment of happiness and comfort.

The motion, which was a formal one on going into supply, was then withdrawn.

Since this debate, we may here remark, Mr. Whitwell's Bill, as to working men's dwellings, has been before the House.

Mr. Whitwell, in moving the second reading of this Bill, explained the object of it to be to enable municipal authorities to acquire sites for the erection of dwelling-houses for the working classes, and to sell the land in small allotments.

Mr. Cross said he did not rise to oppose the second reading of the Bill. Indeed, it was a step to a larger measure which he contemplated bringing on next session for the metropolis. In assenting to the second reading he reserved to himself the liberty of urging any objections either on going into committee or in committee.

The Bill was then read a second time.

DUMBARTON.

THE town council of this flourishing old burgh have their hands pretty nearly full with improvements and new works. Having taken over the gasworks, and obtained an Order in Council to enable them to recauseway the High-street, they have, before doing so, taken the wise precaution of relaying the streets with larger-sized gas-pipes and new water-mains on both sides, so as not to disturb the causeway in making future connexions. They also intend to widen the footpaths on each side of the street to 9 ft. It is said that some of the small feuers and petty lairds are in strong opposition to this part of the scheme, but it is hoped the council will be able to enforce this in spite of all selfish opposition.

The other works in progress are the pier on the Clyde, the first pile of which was driven on Saturday last; it is to run out from the base of the Castle Rock to a distance of 768 ft., and will be a great boon to those people who like to travel by water, as well as a check on the railway company, by keeping fares in moderation. The council have also erected an epidemic hospital, which was opened for patients last week.

Fire Escapes.—Mr. Alfred Thomas, writing from 2, Adelaide-place, London Bridge, E.C., says,—"Allow me a short space to rescue from oblivion the name of the inventor of the ladder fire-escape adopted by the Fire Brigade, as also of the rope-and-sack escape intended for domestic use, both dating more than thirty years back. The patentee was a Mr. Wyvell, an artist, who, like many benefactors, from want of public appreciation in his day, died in poverty. Mr. Sampson Low, for many years secretary of the Royal Society for Protection of Life from Fire, can bear out my statements, and thus render honour to whom honour is due."

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A SPECIAL ORGANISATION FOR THE DIFFUSION OF SANITARY KNOWLEDGE.

THIS was the title of a paper read recently by Major-Gen. Synge, at the Society of Arts. The lecturer said,—A self-evident proposition is admitted to be difficult of proof. An axiom may be stated, but is supposed to be incapable of demonstration, and the attempt even to reason on the difficulty of substantiating logically that which commands instinctive assent leads at once into the region of metaphysics. I should venture on yet more subtle ground were I to hazard entering upon the inquiry why self-evident propositions or truisms stand pre-eminent among the things universally neglected in practice. Yet my subject, namely, "The Importance of a Special Organisation for the Diffusion of Sanitary Knowledge," places me in this difficulty, and takes me into this region. For when I have stated it, shall I not have enunciated a self-evident proposition? Who is there that will dispute the value of knowledge, provided only it be real? Or who will deny the value of health? Who will question that the one bears upon the other? Health cannot be maintained without knowledge, whether that knowledge be instructive, intuitive, or acquired. And who is there to be found bold enough to affirm that our existing habits in matters relating to the maintenance of health are satisfactory? If there be such a one, I should select him as the strongest and most conclusive embodied evidence it were possible to procure, or to adduce, of the necessity which exists for the diffusion of knowledge leading to a better condition of mind. If, on the other hand, there be none such, my proposition is in great part admitted, and, in so far, my object attained. If the habits of a great proportion of our population be in many respects not conducive to, but subversive of, the due maintenance of health, who will gainsay the propriety of, if there exist not the absolute necessity for, a special organisation to spread sound knowledge on sanitary subjects; but an organisation armed with that authority which is derived from conviction brought to bear rather than with that comparatively unreal and unstable force which may indeed be procured by the instrumentality of legal enactments, but which is never willingly submitted to when enacted contrary to conviction, and which never carries, and never can carry, the same inherent power as stands inseparably connected with settled conviction founded upon the knowledge of the true; and this is, to my mind, the sound definition of science: science is true knowledge of the true. In accordance with these views, I seek, in bringing this subject under your consideration, to arouse the energy of action, so that it may be applied directly to the performance of this task, and this Society be moved to form a distinct branch, which I hope will cover the land, and which shall base its action on somewhat of the following principles and outline of suggestion. First, on patient and continuous investigation of what is true in that class of subjects pertaining to health which is usually ranged under the term "Sanitary"; next, on clear and concise compilation of the evidence on which each step in such investigations shall rest, and which shall proceed to diffuse or spread such knowledge, but which shall leave entirely free and unfettered by any recommendation of legal enactments the adoption or the non-adoption of the results which may seem to flow from the establishment on such evidence of the premises in question. I would propose that the Society of Arts request the Council of the Annual International Exhibition to give permanence, and prominence together with that permanence, to that sanitary, architectural, and engineering department which forms so instructive, timely, and valuable a feature this year. Also that it should invite the Council of that Exhibition to cause lectures to be delivered by the exhibitors or others, bringing forward, with all the advantage to be derived from the examples at hand for inspection, their own views in explanation of the works they have produced.

I have jealously guarded against the intrusion of compulsion by means of legal enactment, although it is the pet abomination of the hour; but I would also guard against being supposed to be content to begin and end with the mere machinery of exhibitions or lectures either there or here. I have a very different aim in proposing the formation of this important branch of the Society of Arts. I believe that with very rare, if with any, exceptions our scientific institutions fall short of exercising the influence and carrying the weight they might and should, if they followed more invariably the rule of bringing to a practical conclusion and pronouncing a definite judgment on the questions brought before them, and formed sub-committees charged to see approved conclusions carried into practice by science; that is to say, by sufficiently diffusing sound knowledge on the particular subject. And this is what I propose we should do.

At the conclusion of his address the lecturer suggested the following programme:—

1. The Society of Arts, impressed with the importance of the subject, forms a section for the special purpose of the promotion of sanitary science.

2. It invites, through the lords-lieutenant of counties, the formation of auxiliary associations in every county and shire of the United Kingdom for the same object.

3. It proposes that these be incorporated with the society.

4. It recommends the formation of societies for the same purpose in all the several parts of the empire.

5. It will communicate with this object with her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view of bringing the efforts of this Society before the several parts of the empire, through such channels as in the several cases the governors for the time being of her Majesty's possessions may recommend.

6. It will make known its action in these respects to her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and will request suitable opportunities for inviting, through the channel of her Majesty's embassies, legations, and consulates, the co-operation of such bodies as may be formed in foreign countries for similar purposes.

7. The primary object of the section shall be to promote the improvement of all arrangements affecting the health of populations in respect of the vitiations of the atmosphere, of water-supplies, and of soil, which are incident to human and industrial existence.

8. The Section, in strict subjection to the Society, is purely honorary, and will not in any way connect itself with any commercial undertaking which may arise out of its action or otherwise.

9. It will, however, investigate proposals for attaining any of the objects for which it is constituted, whether or not they be brought forward commercially, and the Society will, upon the recommendation of the Section, approved by the Council, grant gold and silver medals and diplomas of merit, signifying distinct approval, and these shall be accompanied by letters, specifying the grounds on which such recommendations and approval are made and given.

10. The Council of the Society will apply to her Majesty's Commissioners for the Annual International Exhibition to make permanent the display of engineering and architectural appliances which form a feature of this year's Exhibition.

11. They will also suggest to her Majesty's Commissioners for the Annual International Exhibition that arrangements be made at once to enable exhibitors of such appliances this year to deliver such explanations of the several objects they exhibit as can be illustrated with the advantage of the examples upon the ground.

12. They will suggest that this arrangement also be made permanent in so far as they may relate to any novelty hereafter introduced, or of such features as it may be deemed desirable should be continuously made known.

In the course of the discussion which followed,—Mr. Ford thought there seemed a kind of reaction setting in in sanitary matters, there being a proposal for repealing the Smoke Nuisance Act as regarded bakers, and the Act for abolishing slaughter-houses, &c., in the metropolis. The question of road materials had also been referred to, and it seemed to him that the public were content to adopt anything, for some materials were used which absorbed everything which fell upon the road, until the effluvia of ammonia arising therefrom became offensive. In some cases coal tar had to be sprinkled at night to conceal the noxious emanations that were given off. All these matters required to be watched, and he thought the council would be conferring a great benefit on the public by taking the matter up.

Major-general Scott, C.B., said he would confine himself to one or two facts, showing the great ignorance prevalent with reference to sanitary matters. Some few years ago he was in a garrison town when the Crimean soldiers were sent home, sick and wounded; a larger amount of ventilation was required than existed in the barracks, and to secure this large openings were made in the wall, over the beds of the patients, the results being that a great number of them were killed from the draughts, and then the doctors found out that they had not applied the ventilation properly. In reference to this point he might mention that he had seen in Manchester, a short time ago, a very admirable apparatus for ventilating a crowded room. It was applied to a room where prisoners were being tried, and consisted of a number of tubes brought up through the desks in front, and similar tubes at the back, just to the height of the people who sat there; and although his impression at first was that the draught would be too great, this was not so, because the air was shot up with such force that it became mixed with the general air of the room; in fact, he had never been in a better ventilated room. This appeared to be a plan admirably adapted for giving that comfort and health so much required in public rooms, though it might not be suited for dwelling-houses. The sewage question was a subject upon which the country required a good deal of enlightenment. Many towns had been infatuated with the idea of disposing of their sewage at an enormous profit, but this notion was now being dispelled, for the companies, instead of offering fortunes for it, required payment for taking it. If this had been the case some years ago, he thought they would have been considerably in advance of the position in which they now were.

The Chairman (Mr. Thos. Webster, Q.C.) said the paper referred to what might be done by the International Exhibition, but as they understood the International Exhibitions would not be continued in their present form, he thought it a subject well worthy the consideration of the Society whether there might not be a perpetual collection of sanitary apparatuses, and means of affording instruction by lectures.

Mr. Hale thought General Synge had spoken too strongly about Acts of Parliament. Mr. Ford had referred to the question of slaughter-houses in the metropolis as a nuisance. He thought the number of slaughter-houses in the vicinity of butchers' shops was less than formerly.

The Chairman said what he understood General Synge to contend for was that an Act of Parliament ought not to admit of a limited standard of purity, but ought to prescribe that there should be no impurity at all, and that he considered a very vital question.

Major-general Synge, in reply, said there seemed to be no diversity of opinion as to the benefit which would be derived by the country at large if the Society of Arts would organise a direct agency for the diffusion of sound sanitary knowledge; but a little misapprehension appeared to exist as to why he did not propose to resort to legal enactments. It was not so much on account of any inherent legal defect in any particular enactment as from the general effect of over-legislation. We were forced to use water in a particular manner within a definite area, and then another authority stepped in and decreed that the result of that action should not go into the river beds, the natural receivers of water; and still another body, the Thames Conservancy, joined in the same prohibition, and there was nowhere to turn for information and assistance. For years before he left the service to take up this subject, he tried every public department he could hear of, going from one to another, until he found that all he had ever heard of "how not to do it" gave but a very faint idea of the reality. He thought it high time, therefore, that a voluntary association should be formed which should disseminate information. The evil was daily increasing, the water supply getting less, and the population getting thicker and thicker. There was a limit to the water supply, but there was none, he hoped, impending to the increase of the population. Why introduce an artificial one? Why bring about a pestilence to sweep off thousands of lives? And why limit the force and spread of knowledge, by calling for forced action in any shape or form? The points which had impressed him in connexion with this subject were, first, its importance; and next, how to give it effect; and almost every one to whom he spoke said immediately, "Oh! you must get an Act of Parliament." For his own part, much as he valued sanitary reform, he considered independence of character of yet higher importance.

PROPOSED PUBLIC BATHS, AQUARIUM, AND CONCERT HALL AT DOVER.

A COMPANY is in course of formation for the erection of a public building at Dover, which shall contain, under one and the same roof, the triple features of public baths, an aquarium, with commodious refreshment and ante-rooms, and also a concert-hall and assembly-room. The baths department is to contain ladies' and gentlemen's swimming-baths, private hot and cold sea and fresh-water baths, with separate entrances and conveniences, together with shower, vapour, and douche baths, attached to which will be convenient waiting and attendants' rooms, the whole arrangements involving the establishment of baths of a varied character, on a scale of unusual completeness. The aquarium is intended to be one of the most extensive and varied of the kind which has yet been constructed, and will resemble that at Brighton, being equal

to it in its dimensions and every other particular; the promenade and spacious news-room immediately adjoining serving also the purposes of a lounge, with ample arrangements for the performances of an instrumental band. The concert-hall will be large and spacious, and suited to every class of musical entertainment, whilst the assembly-room will accommodate a company, on the occasions of balls or other similar gatherings, of about 800 in number. The building is to be in the French-Italian style of architecture, and the designs have been furnished by Mr. Edward Clark, of the firm of Pain & Clark, London,—Mr. Clark, as a native of Dover, taking great interest in the undertaking. The site selected is favourably situated on the East Cliff, in an elevated and commanding position. The capital of the company has been fixed at 40,000*l.*, which it is estimated will be the cost of the building and fittings. The inhabitants of Dover are, in the first instance, to have the preference in taking shares, and what shares may not be taken up by them will subsequently be offered in London; but the promoters are sanguine that most of the shares will be taken up by the residents in Dover.

LEICESTER-SQUARE,—PICCADILLY,—KENSINGTON.

THIS central western route, unequalled in London or any other city, presents a line exceeding a mile and a half of park border within its range; which would seem to terminate in Leicester-square, where it bifurcates in Long Acre, towards Lincoln's-inn-fields; and in Garrick-street, towards Covent Garden.

Seeing the vast improvements now in progress, through the princely munificence of Mr. Albert Grant's free gift to the community, surely this great boulevard ought not to terminate here, within only 200 paces of the National Gallery, seeing that St. Martin's Church opens the way to the intended thoroughfare by Northumberland House.

The square, dressed in hortulan taste, decorated with fountains, statuary, and ornate railings, furnished with seats and promenades, being the very heart's core of the central metropolis,—having been not only in utter waste, but the most degraded and obscene part of London,—has been transformed into a thing of beauty, and a solace to the whole community, and should therefore be opened out, so as to give continuation to the Piccadilly line, and connexion with the *river embankment*.

Ornamental buildings have been recently erected along the line: Burlington House, the Criterion, besides the old standard, St. James's Church, the Egyptian Hall, Geological Society, Devonshire House, &c.; after these the Iron Duke's arch and Hyde Park gates bring us again to the park border, where the route is of fair average width and character, until at the end of Albert-terrace six or eight mean shops and public-houses extend to the unsightly barracks of Knightsbridge, which obtrude 20 ft. upon the width of the road, defiling the park drive within, and degrading the finest portion of the otherwise invaluable suburb of Knightsbridge.

Farther on, the handsome ranges of Prince's-terrace do credit to the park borders, until we come to the Exhibition-road, where stood the once pleasing house and grounds called Lowther Lodge: here a new and curious pile has been erected, unlike anything in town or country,—a complication of lofty *tiled barn-roofs, gables, hips, and dormers*, and this in close proximity to, and contrast with, the splendid and effective dome of Albert Hall.

As the line commences at Leicester-square, the creation of Mr. Albert Grant, so it may be said to terminate exactly opposite a noble mansion now in progress of completion for that gentleman, designed by Mr. Knowles, and built by Mr. Chappell, of Westminster. This is of Portland stone. The front to Kensington Palace (kitchen) Garden is very handsome, but the back, overlooking effectively laid-out grounds, exhibits so much ornament that it might lead a casual observer to infer that, instead of Portland stone, the construction was carried out in a plastic material.

Opposite the frontage of this mansion (which occupies the site of the old Kensington Madhouse) stands an antique gardener's house; the garden-wall whereof bounds the roadside for 250 ft., and curtains off the view of the old palace and gardens, defiling the road to Kensington. The park-railing extends over a mile from Hyde Park Corner to this point. Surely it ought to be continued to the ancient palace gateway, for uniformity's sake, if not to adorn the royal burgh of Kensington, or to open out to the palace the fine and effective architectural elevation herein referred to.

As to the continuation of the Piccadilly-line to St. Martin's Church, and its junction with the Thames Embankment, the value of such an easement cannot be over-estimated, the distance being so small, through low and squalid lanes and alleys, from Leicester-square, by the Baths and Washhouses, to the Poor-house (now condemned). A portion at least of the Poor-house might be spared for the new street, and the value of new building sites, on so important a central position, would help to recoup the outlay of purchase, but more especially of such lanes as Orange-street, Hemming-row, St. Martin's-court, and its alleys. QUONDAM.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ART.

THE sub-committee of the Manchester School of Art committee, appointed to consider whether anything can be done in the school to further promote a knowledge of decorative design, either by a modification of any part of the present course, or by additional classes, have given in a report on the subject. The sub-committee say:—In considering whether the school of art effects all that can be reasonably expected of such an institution with relation to the art of designing patterns for the textile fabrics of the district, and other kinds of ornamental work, two questions presented themselves:—First. Could it be deemed a part of the legitimate purpose of the school to teach in detail any branch of industrial art? Second. Is the constitution of the school such as to afford to students about to engage in technical designing such preliminary instruction in accurate drawing and in the broad principles of ornamentation as may be applied in practice by the use of common intelligence. On the first of these points,—direct technical instruction,—the committee are unanimously of opinion that its introduction into the school system is not practicable. It could not be carried into effect without teaching much of the collateral art of the workshop, often governed as much by commercial, chemical, and mechanical conditions as by the canons of taste. * * *

The next question to which the committee addressed themselves was this,—Does the school offer all the facilities to be desired for giving instruction to those who join expressly to obtain the elementary training in drawing, and the use of colour, required for rudimentary pattern drawing? Judging from experience, the school has hitherto answered such demands as have been made upon it by pupils. Upon an examination of the occupations of those in attendance at the school during the past year, it appears that thirty-four per cent. are engaged in various branches of decorative art; and, as no complaint has reached the committee from this group of students, it is fair to presume that they appreciate the value of the instruction they receive. But it has been represented to the committee that it might lead to an increase of the students connected with decorative art,—pattern designing and the cognate arts,—if classes were formed expressly for their instruction, always presuming that, while learning to draw, such students would take the usual school course, which is really based on decorative forms. The committee recommend that every facility which the accommodation of the school and its staff of teachers can provide should be given for the formation of such classes. It has been suggested that employers, in those trades where many youths are occupied with the rudimentary details of designing, would probably encourage or even insist on attendance at a class in the school of art. Any overture with this view would, of course, receive the best attention of the committee, and be met with a very earnest desire to promote the object of the gentlemen from whom it emanated.

The general conclusions of the committee are that, relatively to its means and accommodation, the school is imparting sound instruction, and largely, to those engaged in the decorative arts. They recommend that every facility be offered for extending the practical work of the school. They cannot, however, hope to effect any very important expansion of the institution in the limited space it now occupies. A commodious building, or a portion of one, expressly constituted for the purpose, would greatly promote the useful development of the work of the school. The institution should be rent free; it now stands at a rental of 200*l.* a year,—a sum which, if otherwise at the disposal of the committee, might be applied to the increase of the collection of examples and many other useful purposes. A museum of applied art, supplemented by an art library, and both on a scale commensurate with the wealth and enterprise of Manchester, are objects of the first importance in relation to the exercise of the art of design. Manchester ought to possess such a museum and library, and in any effort to provide them, the committee of the School of Art would heartily co-operate, as well as in the periodical delivery of courses of lectures, which would supply the intellectual, in addition to the manipulative, art-training desirable for every student.

EAST AND WEST: PAST AND FUTURE.

CIVILISED man has hitherto turned to the East for inspiration. Are there not signs that the attraction is not now thitherward, but in the opposite direction? Is not our reverence for the past losing strength, and our hope in the future growing? Ever and anon there has appeared to be a backward tendency; but it has only proved to be a step or two retraced, in order to give greater impulse to the bound necessary to overcome an obstacle.

The sun rises in the east; then man goeth forth to labour; the eastern sky may glow with splendour, but it attracts him not: his mind is burdened with the cares of the day, his thoughts are directed to sublunary things.

> "It is at evening,
> When shadows lengthen from each westward thing,
> When imminence of change makes sense more fine,
> And light seems holier in its grand decline."

Then it is that, with lightsome heart, he turns homeward, the attraction being towards the setting sun. Yes, the attraction is ever westward! Religion, poetry, art, science, have each and all proceeded from the east towards the west, and have each expanded and developed as they progressed on their way. Humanity instinctively follows the sun. Man, when he seeks a new home, turns westward; cities expand in that direction; the tide of emigration flows thitherward. The east wind is cold and blighting, the west wind mild and genial. The westernmost peaks of the mountains reach nearest to the heavens.

In the West the slave has been liberated; in the East he still lingers in captivity; his only hope of freedom is from the influence of the West. Christianity itself is purer and more spiritual as it faces the west. When the prophets prophesy falsely, and fulminate dogmatic creeds, they turn to the east. The glory of the future they care not to face; it might shame them into meekness and reverence of heart, and, looking upon the golden glory of the west, they would surely bless when they came to curse. Our churches and cathedrals are made to stand east and west. Beneath their stone-vaulted ceilings we find every effort has been directed to attract attention to the east. But pass we under the dome of heaven, and we find that there the noblest façade presents itself to the setting sun.

Symbolism is Oriental in its origin; the symbol has taken the place of the thing symbolised; its original significance is now matter of conjecture. "We have been repeating the old symbols without caring about any signification they may have had. Now the beginning of a new era is evident."*

Art flourishes only in the West now; in the East it languishes; in the West it is free,—full of health, spirit, and vigour. It does not delight in sombre representations of agony, cruelty, and human degradation. Its works are not intended to be used as idols,—no miraculous powers are vested in them; they are objects for admiration, not adoration,—things of beauty intended to add to the happiness of mankind, and to raise the moral standard of the people.

We have given up erecting imitations of heathen temples; we restore with reverent care the churches designed by our ancestors, and build new ones after the same manner.

May it not be the mission of the West to restore the edifice of Christianity, to strip from its walls the whitewash, plaster, and incongruous detail which obscure the original beauty and simplicity of its outline?

We must not press the architectural simile too far, else we may be accused of passing beyond our proper bounds.

Cras credemus, hodie nihil.

* See p. 355, *ante*.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST.

THE new church in Fitzroy-avenue, Belfast, has been opened for divine service. The church occupies a good site on the south side of Fitzroy-avenue, where it intersects Caledonia-road. It consists of a nave, east and west transepts at the south end, vestibule at the north end, minister's room, and detached tower and spire at the north-east angle. The extreme length inside is 86 ft., width 43 ft., and across transepts 67 ft. The ground floor has a slight fall from the vestibule for about half its length, and affords accommodation for 576 persons. A gallery at the north end, extending over the vestibule, will give sittings for 144 additional,—720 in all. The main entrances are from Fitzroy-avenue, through double portals. In each of these portals is a recessed and moulded doorway in four orders, having polished shafts of Connemara serpentine and Donegal granite, supporting carved caps, from which spring archivolts with mouldings and foliage of Scriptural plants. The church is lighted by traceried windows of two lights in side walls of each bay of nave, and by triple windows in the main gable over the vestibule, the centre one being 24 ft. in height of four lights, having the head filled with geometric tracery, and the others of two lights with plate tracery. The transepts, in addition to having windows in the side walls similar to those in the nave, have at a high level in their gables lofty triple lights with trefoiled heads, above which is a geometric wheel-window. All the lights will be filled with leaded quarries of cathedral glass, of slightly varied tints, with narrow border of blue glass, except a large wheel-window in the south gable, which is filled with stained glass, geometrically arranged. The tower stands a little distance from the north-east angle of the church, but is connected with it by a covered arcade, in which one of the staircases to the gallery is carried over, and the passage under this is groined in stone, the ribs springing from carved heads. The tower is 20 ft. square above the base, and rises to a height of 80 ft., whence the octagonal spire starts, and attains the total height of 162 ft. at top of the vane. The roofs, which are of high pitch, are supported on Memel trusses, of which the curved braces are borne on cut stone responds, having carved caps and bases. The ceiling, which is plastered, is approximately semicircular in section, and is formed into panels by large wood mouldings. A platform or tribune for the minister is elevated some feet above the floor, and is placed a little in advance of the south gable, where a recess is formed in the wall, finished with Bath-stone responds, and moulded arch. All the pewing is formed of selected pitch pine, with the bench ends moulded and capped with black walnut, French polished. The general contractor for the work was Mr. William M'Cammond; the gas-fitting has been executed by Mr. R. Stewart; Mr. Stevens has done all the carving; Mr. George Coulter the varnishing and painting; and Messrs. R. Henderson the heating, all of Belfast. The architects are Messrs. Young & Mackenzie, of Belfast. The cost of the church when completed will be about 5,000*l.* A lecture-room and sexton's house are in course of erection at the rear of the church, which will cost 1,600*l.* additional.

A U. P. CHURCH FOR LOCKERBIE.

THE ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a United Presbyterian Church at Lockerbie took place on Tuesday, the 21st ult., in presence of a large gathering.

The building occupies the site of the old U. P. Church, now pulled down. It stands upon an elevated plot of land at the north-west corner of the Dumfries-road, where it joins the main highway between Carlisle and Edinburgh,—the principal street in Lockerbie. The church is oblong in form, stands north and south, with the entrance from the south end, a tall tower and spire at the south-east angle, and a session-house and vestry running east and west at the north end of the church. The entire structure measures 92 ft. in extreme length from north to south, and 54 ft. from east to west. The style of the building is Early English Gothic, pretty freely treated. The internal dimensions are 58 ft. by 36 ft.; the height, from floor to ridge of roof, 52 ft. The session-house for prayer and public meetings is 36 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. In connexion with the church and session-house is the vestry, with wardrobe, closet, lavatory, and other conveniences.

The main entrance to the building is at the south end of the church facing the Dumfries-road, where there are two doorways with deep-cut masonry and moulded arches, supported by circular columns of polished Dalbeattie granite, having carved caps and bases. The tower has a square base of 17 ft., flanked at the angles with weathered buttresses. The extreme base is 25 ft., and the height to springing of spire 64 ft. The tower is surmounted by an octagonal spire and vane, rising to a height of 140 ft. The walls of the building will be executed in coursed work, with droved dressings, in red stone from Corncockle Quarry. Over every door and window opening will be arches turned in blue whinstone from Moffat Craig; between each pair of side-lights are buttresses with weather-tablings in two heights.

The roof will be covered with slate, crowned by an ornamental ridge cresting of Staffordshire tiles. Ventilation is secured by upright dormer ventilators on the roof, and by patent openings in the windows. In the basement of the tower provision has been made for the introduction of the "Alembicon Air-warming and Ventilating Apparatus," by which the temperature of the building can be regulated to any degree. The roof is in one span, open to the ridge. The whole of the internal woodwork will be stained and varnished. The church will have 550 sittings. There will be a gallery only at at the south end. In the centre of its length is a clock-case, decorated, and supported by a pair of cantilevers. On either side are ten panels, alternately filled in with quatrefoils and arched piercings of leaflike pattern.

The church will be lighted by a large circular window, filled in with plate tracery, over the entrance in the south gable; a similar window of smaller size in the north gable; ten pair of grouped two-light windows, surmounted by circular lights in the side-walls, and single lights to the south-west angle. The windows will be fitted with lead quarry-lights, filled in with cathedral tinted glass. It is also proposed, should sufficient funds be forthcoming, to glaze the large circular window in the south gable with stained glass. The architect has made provision for a public clock on four sides of the tower.

The artificial lighting of the church will be by gas sunlights from the roof, by brass lacquered standards to the pulpit and choir, and by stained glass lantern lights in the vestibule. The site will be surrounded by a stone wall and ornamental rail, with Gothic piers and gateways.

The cost of the building will be under 2,500*l.* The architect, from whose designs and under whose direct supervision the building is being erected, is Mr. Ford Mackenzie, of Wigan and Manchester,—a gentleman already well known by his works in this district. The villa in St. Bryde's-terrace, Lockerbie, recently erected from his designs for Mr. William Wright, solicitor, is of modern Gothic architecture.

The contractors for the church are: Messrs. Lawson & Son, Lockerbie, for the mason, slater, &c., works; T. Irving, Lockerbie, for the carpenter and joiner works; James Beattie, Lockerbie, for the plumber work; J. Scott, glass-stainer, Manchester, for the glazier work; the ornamental iron-work is by Messrs. Macfarlane & Co., Glasgow; the wood stains by H. Stephens, of London; and the painting and decorating by Thos. Jardine, Lockerbie.

THE SEWAGE PROBLEM: A NEW FUEL.

AN endeavour is being made to solve the sewage problem by converting sewage into a new fuel and burning it up in steam and other furnaces. At the mills of Messrs. Danks & Co., Cecil-street, Birmingham, some experiments with the new fuel, known under the name of Burgess's patent fuel, and in this case of the worst kind, so far as it was manufactured solely of compressed nightsoil, treated with chemicals to render it inodorous, and mixed with a small quantity of gas-tar. The nightsoil was transformed by the process into a substance having the appearance of coal, and smelling somewhat like gas-tar. The proprietor of the patent professes to have discovered a novel and valuable method of utilising the sewage of our large towns; and the trial was witnessed by Alderman Avery (chairman of the Local Watch Committee) and other gentlemen interested in the subject. The properties of the fuel were tested in a manner that was pronounced satisfactory by those present. Two and a half cwt. of the fuel were thrown into a furnace under a large steam boiler, and it generated steam in fifty-four minutes, with a pressure of 14 lb. on the square inch. Subsequently a similar quantity of engine-slack was placed in the furnace, and in eighty-one minutes it produced a pressure of 12 lb. on the square inch. The fuel burnt brightly, and gave forth a good heat. There was scarcely any waste or ash, and it was stated that even this could be again utilised as fuel. We understand it is in contemplation to form a limited company to bring the patent prominently before the world. The patentee is Mr. Edwin Lowe, of Birmingham.

THE PROPOSED MORTUARY IN CLERKENWELL.

THE Clerkenwell vestry appear to be in a difficulty as to obtaining a site for a mortuary, which they have decided to provide as soon as possible, as it is admitted to be urgently necessary. At their meeting last week, it transpired that the visiting justices had refused their application for a piece of ground near the House of Detention, and also that all the owners of four other sites which had been selected had likewise objected to allow the vestry to have them. The consequence is, that the committee, to whom the matter had been entrusted by the vestry, recommended a site in the burial-ground of St. James's, Pentonville, as the most suitable that could be obtained. They stated that it was surrounded with trees, and at a great distance from the houses in the neighbourhood. In the discussion which took place on the subject, the vault under the parish church was suggested as more suitable for a mortuary than the burial-ground of St. James's, Pentonville; and it was urged in its favour that it was ready-made, and that a *post-mortem* room could be had by excavating some 12 ft., and running a shaft up the side of the church. Against this proposal it was objected that, although the vault was unused, it was not desirable to put bodies in a decomposed state, or persons dying from a contagious disease, under the seats of the church; but ultimately an amendment in favour of constructing the mortuary in the vault, rather than in the burial-ground at Pentonville, was carried, and the matter was referred back to the committee. The use of any part of the church for the purpose seems to us very undesirable.

THE NEW INFIRMARY FOR LAMBETH.

AT their meeting last week, the Lambeth guardians finally agreed to build a new infirmary, after having several times discussed the question at their meetings during the last two or three months. The resolution proposed by Mr. Taylor, and eventually carried unanimously, was to the effect that, after due consideration, the Board was of opinion that it is advisable to build a new infirmary on the vacant freehold land adjoining the new workhouse, of one acre and a third in extent, belonging to the guardians, in preference to creating the old workhouse in Princes-road into an infirmary, inasmuch as it would involve an outlay of 25,000*l.* to adapt it, and also because the old premises might be sold for a large sum. It was shown in the course of the discussion that by having the new infirmary close to the workhouse the cost of water-supply, amounting to 250*l.* per annum, would be saved, as the supply in the new workhouse would be equal to supply both establishments. The estimated cost of the new building is 35,000*l.*, but it is expected that the actual outlay will be much less than that sum, as it is understood that an offer has been made to give 15,000*l.* for the old workhouse. It was agreed that instructions be given to an architect to draw out plans, and furnish an estimate of the cost of the building.

THE WANDSWORTH BOARD OF WORKS AND THE THAMES FRONTAGES.

THE great damage sustained on the south side of the Thames by the inundation a short time ago appears to have made a lasting impression on the different local authorities from east to west, extending from Rotherhithe to Wandsworth, all of whom are now taking steps for securing greater protection than at present exists on the south bank of the river, in case there should again be an overflow. We have already noted the fact of the Rotherhithe, Lambeth, and other parishes having taken action in the matter, and to these we have now to add

the Wandsworth Board of Works. At the meeting of that body, held last week, it was resolved to issue notices to owners of property adjoining the river, calling upon them to raise their walls to the height of 5 ft. above the level of Trinity high-water mark, in order to prevent a recurrence of the serious and fatal disasters which happened in March last, when the river overflowed its banks.

THE POSITION OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

SIR,—In connexion with "E.'s" letter on the "R. I. B. A.," in your paper, may I be allowed to mention a few facts that seem to me pertinent to the subject.

The comparison with the Inst.C.E. is very much to the point. The professions are sisters: in fact, many persons consider that at least so far as building is concerned, an architect should also be a C.E. The meetings in Great George-street are crowded to excess in a room certainly three or four times the size of that in which the sparsely attended meetings of the R. I. B. A. are held, and this notwithstanding the fact that according to the Post Office Directory, and speaking roughly, the members of the Architectural profession in London outnumber their Civil Engineering brethren by something like two to one.

It is true that the Inst.C.E. is a far more comprehensive body than the R. I. B. A. (though there is no valid reason why it should be so), and yet it is very exclusive, requiring in all its members a considerable amount of professional or other distinguished qualification; therefore it is esteemed an honour, both by the public and by the profession, to gain admission to the society.

The subjects of the R.I.B.A. meetings are not as a rule of much professional moment, nor of a nature calculated to attract more than a few *dilettanti* men, who are delighted with the opportunity of airing their notions, praising somebody else, and having sweet things said of them in return.

If the R.I.B.A. is ever to be truly the representative Society of the profession, it will not be as at present constituted. Some radical change must take place, which will, as one of its effects, at least have a less self-satisfied manner of looking upon its affairs and its future than it has yet attained. The discussion of this subject would be one of the most instructive and interesting that could be brought before the notice of the approaching conference.

The policy of the R.I.B.A. has over and over again been expressed in its sentiment, "That it will examine, but it will not educate"; and in every matter however trivial it seems to seat itself on its dignity, in a manner reminding one of children "playing at being kings and queens."

The leading idea of the Architectural Association is always put forward and worked up to as "Help and educate one another"; and if these two London Societies are ever to be combined in one, as suggested by your correspondent "E.," it is the senior body that will have to undergo the greatest amount of reconstruction.

R. E. P.

THE NEW STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE.

SIR,—The enthusiasm of your correspondent, "W. C. T.," for current abasement of architecture at the foot of antiquarianism, prevents him seeing, even within the same paragraph, any inconsistency in stating that "the *onus probandi* of the possibility of a new style lies with its advocates," while his own bare assertion of its being a "mere speculation, and that a not feasible speculation," remains without attempt at proof.

So, sir, it is historical that promoters and originators of magnificent inventions or discoveries, of noble efforts to shake off trammels of authority, and further free inquiry or great advances for the benefit of humanity, have been opposed by the carping croakings and even persecutions of the "W. C. T." type of "philosophers," just as these would have laughed at the first requirements or conceptions of gunpowder, printing, the compass, steam-engine, and telegraph, as "not feasible speculations," and scouted the notion of wanting to have, do, or know something, before having, doing, or knowing it. So Socrates and he who first said there were antipodes were put to death; so Copernicus, Galileo, Bacon, Descartes, Locke, even Newton, were taxed with irreligion for their doctrines or discoveries; so Columbus was ridiculed as a wild dreamer, and Harvey was traduced as an impudent quack; and so the list may be lengthened of the sort of encouragement to his most generous benefactors often meted out by narrowly and foolishly conservative man. "But, God be thanked," Sir William Temple says sarcastically of man, "his pride is greater than his ignorance, and what he wants in knowledge he supplies by sufficiency. When he has looked about him, as far as he can, he concludes there is no more to be seen; when he is at the end of his line, he is at the bottom of the ocean; when he has shot his best, he is sure none ever did, or ever can, shoot better or beyond it."

Just touching on the new style, its advocates have, at least, the plain plea that promotion of speculative change precedes and commonly induces substantial change. So also, although it is impossible to teach invention or discovery, as the theory is explicable, they may usefully analyse past and present procedures, and warn men with originative powers from pursuing such a course as will assuredly neutralise the gift. If existing chaos of copyism of all effete styles, or idiotic imitation or passable persistence in one ancient style, is to continue, then history and laws of development and advancement must be reversed in the sole and singular case of architecture, which, as a fine art, will thus always remain the one conspicuous calling, that not merely does not make progress, but prides itself on going backwards. "That in which the new style is to consist" (the questioner being apparently unacquainted with Fergusson and modern art literature), is reflection and portrayment of the civilisation of *this* age, and not of that of past ages. To be true, it must indicate *our* people's or age's collective type of character, and to be good or great, it must indicate what is good or great in them. An architect, to be worthy of the name with its grand traditions should, like our foremost *literati* and scientists, think for himself. If he really *thinks* then, being part and parcel, and a result of the age, or what it has made him, he cannot help reflecting the age; and, like his Greek, Moorish, and Mediæval predecessors, he would scorn trying to repeat archaic forms and symbols in the vacuous, hopeless, helpless manner in which men, incapable of artistic thoughts, now lose themselves in low copyistic retrogression, either in the Gothic or Classic diathesis of disease, depicting neither the past nor the present. E. L. T.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

SIR,—IN the model exhibited in the Architectural Room we have the intentions of the architect and committee, in reference to the decoration of St. Paul's, which intentions, for the sake of the cathedral and of English taste, I trust will not be permitted to be carried out. We may say of it, as a critic, the best authority in England on such subjects said, within our hearing, "It is decorators' decoration,—mere frippery," which would be not only out of place, but injurious to the grandeur of the cathedral. We should recollect that this is a case in which it behoves all those who are informed on the subject to speak out, and the committee and architect who have the charge and conduct of this undertaking should recollect that if they succeed in carrying out mere whimsies, instead of the right thing, they will have the anathemas of posterity, and expose English taste to ridicule for ages to come.

Since the decadence and severance of the arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture, "decoration" has come to mean something inferior to and apart from the highest vocation of art; but this distinction between the "decorator" and the true artist is an entirely modern one, growing out of a more limited notion of the painter's vocation. The greatest painters were, in the great era, the greatest decorators. It was they who were able to clothe the architectural bones and breathe into the proportioned carcass the breath of life. Now, however, we are doomed to hear the title of *decorative artist* applied to an inferior workman, to a mere *ornamentist*, and *decorative painting* to something pretty and apart from the high province of art, a kind of art wherewith to overlay architecture, not to ennoble it. Hence *decoration* has come to be considered a speciality, and the overlaying of buildings the province of the *decorator*.

This is all wrong. Such a misconception would be impossible anywhere else in Europe. For those who are at all conversant with the history of art know, not only that the greatest Italian painters were the greatest decorators, but that the greatest part of their lives was devoted to mural decoration, and not as our modern artists to finicking over easel pictures. The Italians well knew that the painter who was supreme in mastery over the human form, was the Master of Art, of its three branches—painting, sculpture, and architecture. Thus it was that St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, &c., were endowed with souls, with immortality. The pre-eminence of the master art is acknowledged, tacitly acknowledged, to this day, for the creations of Michelangelo, Raffaelle, and others, are the prime objects of interest to every traveller in Italy. It is entirely absurd to suppose that the elements of grandeur in St. Paul's, as the architect left them, can be enhanced by mere coloured marbles, or the picking-in of mouldings with gold, in house-decorator's fashion, and the introduction here and there of archaic figures in imitation of Byzantine, or early and puerile Italian art. There is but one way to add to and complete St. Paul's, and that is by portraying humanity under the inspiration of divine revelation; by making this the primary and all-important consideration. This is the work of the true painter, not of the decorator-architect; and if we have not painters equal to the undertaking, we had better wait till we have, instead of substituting such poor substitutes as marbling, gilding, and Giottesque grotesqueness. W. C. T.

GODALMING, SURREY.

SIR,—The Government sanitary inspector has made remarks upon the state of the borough of Godalming, which have given great offence to the municipal authorities.

Be it known, the population of this important borough numbered 2,321 persons last census.

The inhabitants fancy the town of Godalming is perfection itself in the matter of drainage and water supply. How far their opinion can be verified I will leave you to guess, when there are some privies not 6 ft. distant from the well. They think because the water from the wells is clear that it is faultless in quality.

The death-rate of the locality may be low, but I am always suspicious of returns made by interested persons. But if the death-rate is low, I guess the sick-rate must be high; otherwise how is it that four medical men reside in the borough, and two of them employ assistants, and occasionally the medical men from Guildford come across, and many poor persons avail themselves of medical assistance at the Guildford hospital.

My impression may be erroneous, but I think it an unhealthy locality for a country place.

Perhaps the miserable hovels the labouring class crowd into may be partly the cause; for there are crowded courts and miserable old houses in this little old county town, that human beings in a civilised country ought not to be allowed to live in. In one place there is a row of cottages with their backs to the road, the road being some 2 ft. above the bedroom-floor. But what tradesman or working-man dares make an offensive remark against any person of interest in a county town or locality? If he did so he would be crushed; his only escape would be to emigrate.

Civilisation has conferred but few substantial benefits upon the rural labouring population of this side of old England, and I expect this to be one of the causes of the exodus now going on.

AN INHABITANT.

P.S.—They have built a new bridge at Unstead over the river Wey, perhaps influenced by the remarks you made upon it some two years ago. But there is another at Cottshall, over the river, in a very bad state; it hardly looks safe at present, and there is a deal of traffic over it to Messrs. Spicer's paper-mills.

A REREDOS FOR ST. CUTHBERT'S, DARLINGTON.

MR. DOBBIN has offered the parish a mosaic reredos for this church, which has been accepted after considerable discussion. It has been made somewhat too large for the position, and a correspondent terms it "a tawdry piece of gim-crackery" quite unsuitable to the church. On the other hand, we observe that Mr. Pritchett, who restored the chancel, inclines to it, and shows how it can be made to suit the space.

RUDE STONE MONUMENTS IN KENT AND OXFORDSHIRE.

AT the meeting of the London Anthropological Society, Dr. Charnock, F.S.A., President, in the chair, Mr. A. L. Lewis described a monument of some importance, which seems to have escaped the notice of previous explorers. The monument in question is situated at Colderham Lodge, near Snodland, Kent, on the summit of a steep bank, where several stones of a large size appear to have formed an oval ring, on the north-east side of which are some outlying stones, as is the case with so many of our British circles. The diameters of the oval would seem to have been from 40 ft. to 50 ft., but there are—so closely adjoining it as to suggest the possibility of their having been constructed with the stones of the oval—the remains of a large sepulchral chamber; and several stones, which no doubt formed part of one or other of these monuments, are scattered at the foot of the bank. Mr. Lewis also descanted on the better-known monuments at Addington Park, and Kit's Coty House; and in another paper, on the Roll Rich and other monuments in Oxfordshire. He adheres to the Celtic origin and probable sacrificial use of the Roll Rich and other circles, which is in complete opposition to the views recently promulgated by Mr. J. S. Fergusson; but Mr. Lewis has already contested those views at considerable length in a paper read before the society in January last.

LIABILITY OF BUILDERS FOR ACCIDENTS TO THEIR JOURNEYMEN.

VINER *v.* COLLINSON & LOCK.

THIS was an action in the Court of Common Pleas, before Mr. Justice Keating, to recover compensation in damages, under features of more than usual interest to builders and journeymen.

The trial lasted some hours, but the following embraces the facts and evidence adduced:—

Mr. Viner, the plaintiff, is a house-painter and decorator, and in February last he was employed by Messrs. Collinson & Lock to decorate a ceiling at a mansion in Addison-road, Kensington. Whilst at work on a scaffold resting on trestles, a plank gave way, and Viner, with two of his mates, fell to the floor.

The plaintiff had two ribs fractured, and his mates were also sadly shaken. Mr. Viner's back was so hurt that he had not been able to work since the accident, and it was the opinion of the surgeon that it would take three or four months to get the man right for work.

The plea urged for damages was that the mishap arose from the scaffold being insecurely constructed; that one board was too short, and the planks too weak and thin, and to carry the end of the short plank a cross-piece had been placed partially sawn through, and it was by a man stepping on this cross-piece that the scaffold broke down. It was not disputed that the facts were as stated by the plaintiff and his witnesses, but the answer to the case was that personally the defendants had nothing to do with the building of the scaffold, nor had they any knowledge of the matter; that the wood was proper for the purpose, and the planks were selected by Mr. Masters, their foreman, who superintended the erection of the scaffold, and it was made, as he thought, perfectly secure. That there was no plank actually too short, and that the cross-piece was placed there by the workmen for their own convenience. That the cross-piece did not come from defendant's yard, but was a piece of the old conservatory which had been pulled down.

The law point urged was, that even if the masters had been negligent, the defendant would not be liable for the act, because the plaintiff would have been injured through the negligence of a fellow-servant.

The jury were absent a considerable time, and were eventually discharged without giving a verdict.

Each party will have to pay their own costs.

NEW POLICE COURTS, NEWCASTLE.

THE new courts for the administration of local justice and police, are situated on the east side of Pilgrim-street, opposite Shakspeare-street, the rear being contiguous to the borough gaol in Carliol-square. An incidental advantage of the selection is the opening out of a street that was much needed, running to the south of the police courts, and opening out to the line north of the gaol. On the north side the Court-house is built close up against the adjoining property, and is of course hid from public view. In shape the site is an irregular parallelogram 210 ft. in length, 80 ft. in width at the front of Pilgrim-street end, and 65 ft. in width at the other end.

The general style of the building is French-Italian, but the treatment of details, while ornate in character, has been so free that traces are observable of other orders of architecture. The front elevation of the new building has been treated in an elaborate style, and is adorned with a profusion of stonework, the most prominent examples being the colossal figures of Truth, Peace, Justice, and Mercy, and a set of heads of historical characters placed above the doorway, and above the arched and mullioned windows. The head above the main entrance is intended to represent Queen Victoria. There are also heads of Queen Elizabeth and of Oliver Cromwell. The height of the front elevation from the pavement to the pediment is 64 ft., and the vase-shaped final which surmounts it carries it two feet higher. In a line with the centre of the building, and at a distance of 20 or 30 ft. from the front, an octagonal tower rises above the lower roof. To the cornice of this tower the height is 81 ft., to the top of the pyramidal roof is 22 ft. higher, and a diadem-shaped summit of iron work terminating in a vane makes the height from the ground to the topmost point of the building 126 ft. The side elevation is not so ornate in style as the front. There are two projections with pavilion roofs—one at the corner, the other some distance down the new street. Lower still is a large tower, under which is the public entrance to the new Police Court. Between this tower and the middle pavilion is what may be termed the waist of the structure, which is not carried up to the same height as the other parts of the building, and which contains the cells for the prisoners and the court-room. The front entrance is flanked by polished granite slabs, and leads immediately to the grand staircase. The well of the staircase is the octagonal tower. On the ground-floor of the front portion of the building are the offices of the chief constables, clerks, inspectors of police, &c. Further on are a few steps down, which lead into what is to be the charge room, and beyond it is the reserve police room, a lofty, spacious apartment. Beyond this again are the cells, in two tiers, the increased height between the first-floor and the ground caused by the descent of the steps, affording room for the Mezzanine or intermediate floor. There are twenty-nine cells, each measuring 11 ft. by 8 ft. 9 in. Every cell is fitted up in approved fashion, and warmed in winter by hot-air pipes. Outside of the cells, and at each side of the building, is an open court-yard, in which the prisoners may take their exercise. Underneath the cells is the furnace for heating the cells and the court room above, and also arrangements for the ventilation of the building by means of flues running up and along the walls of the court to a ventilating shaft, where an open furnace carries off the foul air. On the first-floor at the front are the rooms of the magistrates' clerk and his assistants, retiring rooms for the magistrates, consulting-rooms for solicitors and their clients, waiting-rooms for witnesses, &c. The court-room is on this floor, and measures 50 ft. by 37 ft., and 25 ft. in height, with a ribbed and panelled cove-shaped ceiling, lighted from the roof by a large sunlight, and from the sides by circular windows with swing sashes. This form of roof has been adopted on acoustic grounds. The bench does not take up any space of the room, as the magistrates will be seated a few feet above the level of the floor, underneath an elliptical arch thrown back from the west end of the room. The internal fittings are not yet complete. On the upper floors of the higher blocks are dwelling rooms for officials, and kitchens, and dormitories for the police. As to the sanitary arrangements, every floor has its own water-closets, urinals, lavatories, bath-rooms, &c. Hydrants are also placed at every point of vantage for the suppression of fire, should it break out. Provision has been made in the south-west corner of the building for the offices of the Whittle Dean Water Company. It is also intended to establish an underground connexion between the police cells and the gaol. The work of the architect was to use the site marked out for him to the best advantage, and in this respect the property surveyor of the town has been successful. The completion of the new courts has been much delayed by the strike of the joiners employed by the contractors, and no one can tell when the work will be finished. The estimated cost of the building is nearly 17,000*l.* Mr. Walter Scott is the principal contractor, and different departments of the work have been sub-let by him to Messrs. Lowry, joiners; Mr. Gibson, painter; and Mr. Ralph Dodds, plasterer. The whole of the work has been carried on under the supervision of Mr. Lamb, whose inspector and clerk of the works is Mr. Peter Bain.

China-Clay.—A very fine discovery of this valuable commodity, now in such request (the demand being much in excess of production), has been made near Bodmin, by the representative of a company of gentlemen in London, and under his superintendence works are being rapidly pushed forward at Temple.

FROM SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh.—A public meeting, convened by the Lord Provost in compliance with a requisition from the Provisional Committee for promoting the extension and improvement of the Edinburgh University buildings, of which we have already given some account, has been held in Queen-street Hall, when a series of appropriate resolutions in favour of the movement was passed. There was a large attendance, the assemblage comprising a considerable proportion of ladies. The Lord Provost occupied the chair. ——A marble monument is in course of erection in Grange Cemetery, to the memory of Dr. Guthrie. A bas-relief head of the deceased gentleman adorns the centre of the monument, and a brief inscription records the days on which he was born and died.

Linlithgow.—The foundation stone of a new Free Church has been laid at Linlithgow. The old church, which had been hurriedly built at the time of the Disruption, was an ungainly-looking edifice, and not fitted up with much regard to the comfort of either minister or congregation. It is now being converted into a school. Mr. Chalmers granted a site for a nominal sum at the west end of the town, and also purchased the old church at a mutual valuation, and contributed 500*l.* towards the erection of the new church. The building, which is now pretty well advanced, is in the Gothic style of architecture, with ornamental buttresses supporting the side walls. A spire is in course of erection to something like 100 ft. in height. The interior of the church will be fitted to contain 350 sittings, and the Presbytery Hall adjoining will be commodious and airy.

Dunfermline.—Mr. Joseph Paton, father of Sir J. Noel Paton, R.S.A., has died at his residence, Wooer's Alley Cottage, Dunfermline, his native town, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Mr. Paton was a man of remarkable character. In his profession of damask-pattern painter, he attained celebrity, having received several important Government prizes for his designs, which were original, and greatly promoted the staple trade of Dunfermline. He was a great antiquary, and possessed one of the largest and best private museums in Scotland. He presented to George IV., shortly after his Majesty's first visit to Scotland, a number of historic relics of great interest, the receipt of which was specially acknowledged. In his religious principles he was a follower of Swedenborg, and during the last thirty years he acted the part of preacher to a small congregation in Dunfermline. The members of his family now alive, are Sir Noel and Waller Paton, R.S.A., and Mrs. Roxburgh, and Mrs. D. O. Hill, the well-known sculptor, and widow of as well-known a painter, Mr. D. O. Hill.

Dundee.—The foundation stone of Victoria-street United Presbyterian Church, Dundee, has been laid by Provost Cox, in presence of a large assemblage of spectators. The building occupies a site at the west end of the street, and is in the centre of a populous locality. It is in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, and its chief feature is a tower terminating in an open crown, and possessing clock and bells. Accommodation will be afforded for 850 persons. The whole cost of erection will be about 5,000*l.*

GLANTON SCHOOL BOARD.

THIS is the first and only School Board established in North Northumberland. The Board requiring designs for a mixed school for 110 children, with a teacher's residence, offered a premium of five guineas to Mr. F. R. Wilson, of Alnwick, and another. The designs were finally considered by the Board at their meeting on the 13th inst., when those of Mr. Wilson were selected, and he was appointed architect to the Board. The site is upon a brae-side, near the village of Glanton, situated in a very hilly and picturesque district.*

OLD LONDON AS VISIBLE IN MAPS.

SIR,—Can any of your correspondents inform me, through the medium of your columns, how far the Map of London contained in Bruin's "Civitates Orbis Terrarum" (printed at Cologne in 1572) is a faithful copy of the Elizabethan map in the City Library? To judge by your interesting article of the 25th ult., it corresponds in most of its details. C. J. G.

* Mr. Wilson has been re-elected sanitary inspector by the Alnwick Rural Sanitary Authority on the same terms as last year, viz., 180*l.* per annum, half to be paid by the Government.

CRYSTAL GLASS FOUNTAIN.

MESSRS. F. & C. OSLER, of Oxford-street, have on show for a few days a colossal crystal glass fountain, recently manufactured by them, and purchased by his Highness the Maharajah of Puttiala, which exceeds in size and richness the fountain exhibited by them in the centre of the Great Exhibition of 1851. It is 25 ft. in height, and has been nearly two years in hand. Some large balls introduced are marvels of glass cutting, and other difficult pieces of work are shown, which will most please those who know most about them. By ornamental cuttings on the inner side of the pieces with which the columns are made up, a peculiar and rich effect is obtained. A little less ornament and more plain surfaces of glass would nevertheless have pleased us more.

The spacious apartment in which the fountain stands is one of the cleverest of the minor works of the late Mr. Owen Jones. The object was to obtain a large amount of generally distributed light, without glare; this is effected by open panels all over the vaulting, formed by intersecting ribs, and which are filled in with coloured glass. The remarkable assortment of glass which the firm have here is accordingly seen to the greatest possible advantage.

THE CZAR IN THE CITY.

To invite, receive, and grandly entertain the Emperor of Russia, the Royal Family of England, and 2,600 other guests, is no trifling feat; and when this is done without a visible hitch anywhere, or a single accident, those who understand the difficulties of such an undertaking will know that good managers were at work. This was certainly the case in the City on Monday last, and we offer our praises to the City architect, Mr. Horace Jones; Mr. Fredk. Fenton, who appears, as of old time, to have assisted in the arrangement of the decorations; the chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. E. Hart; and the committee itself, which included at any rate one architect, Mr. James Edmeston. The throne, though merely a *pièce de circonstance*, was a tasteful and handsome structure, and the general effect of the crowded hall was very fine. The ease and rapidity with which the enormous mass of people congregated there, and in the temporary pavilion attached to it, found their way to the luncheon provided for every one of them in the various courts and apartments contiguous, was marvellous, and afforded evidence of as much prevision as provision.

THE TOWER OF ST. JOHN'S, HAMPSTEAD.

MR. G. G. SCOTT, M.A., has published a letter, addressed to the Vicar of Hampstead, in which he makes a vigorous and praiseworthy attempt to prevent the threatened destruction of the tower of the parish church. It appears that the tower was erected with the church about a century and a quarter ago, and is not only of very good proportions, but is remarkably well built. There is not a symptom of failure in it from top to bottom. Careful and repeated examinations of it have convinced him that it is as sound as a bell throughout, and that at the present time it is, in every respect, in as good condition as when it was first completed. Any person who takes the trouble to examine the building may see for himself that the cracks, which appear in the eastern part of the church, are not in the tower itself, but only in the walls that abut upon it. They are simply the result of the greater weight of the tower, which has caused it to subside to a certain extent, and so to crack the walls of the church, and of the staircases, which being lighter, have undergone no settlement. The tower has settled, but it has done so in one block. No better proof could be given of the excellent workmanship and capital condition of the tower than the fact, that its subsidence has caused no fracture whatever in the fabric of the tower itself. The settlement is due to an exceptional cause—the decay of the planking on which its foundations are laid; but every old tower in the country has undergone similar movement from analogous causes. Subsidences of this kind come to an end after a certain time, the foundations take a solid bearing, and no further movement from this cause can then arise. The great tower of St. Nicholas church in Hamburg, Mr. Scott says, upon the erection of which his father has been engaged for twenty years, though it is not yet completed, and though it stands upon one of the finest masses of concrete ever put in, has already subsided more than 6 in. Our Hampstead tower has gone down something less than 3 in. I need scarcely say that it is not proposed to pull down the tower of St. Nicholas on account of its 6 in. subsidence. Why then should our Hampstead church be condemned?

The tower has gone over a little, because the planking on which it is built has decayed on one side. They have only to wait until it has decayed on the other side also, a period, Mr. Scott calculates, of six years, and the tower will resume its perpendicular position.

There seems to be no excuse whatever for destroying the tower, and we hope it will not be done.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual general meeting of this Association was held on Wednesday, May 13th, Mr. J. R. Planché (Somerset Herald), vice-president, in the chair. The balance-sheet having been presented and approved, the officers and council for the year were elected, including Mr. Kirkman D. Hodgson, M.P., as president of the approaching congress, and Mr. Thos. Morgan as treasurer, vice Mr. Gordon Hills resigned.

In the evening a small party of the officers and members dined together, Mr. Edward Roberts, F.S.A., in the chair, and celebrated the thirty-first anniversary of the foundation of the Association.

The loss of Mr. Gordon Hills, on the eve, too, of the Bristol Congress, is much to be lamented; and in the interest of the Association we should be glad to hear that the committee had induced him again to give his aid, if only for the current year.

SALE OF HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE AND THE OPERA ARCADE.

VALUE OF LEASEHOLD PROPERTY AT THE WEST-END.

A LARGE attendance was attracted to the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, on Wednesday, by the announcement that Messrs. Chinnock, Galsworthy, & Chinnock, would offer a quantity of property at the West End for sale, including her Majesty's Theatre, four houses and shops in Pall-mall, the whole of the Opera Arcade, comprising fifteen shops, together with the United Hotel and Clergy Club, comprising Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, Charles-street, and Nos. 70 and 71, Haymarket; producing altogether a present income of 5,406*l.* 14s. per annum. The whole of the property is held from the Crown for an unexpired term of thirty-eight years, ending in 1912, and was offered for sale by direction of the trustees of Mr. H. E. Holloway. Altogether the property contained twenty lots.

Her Majesty's Theatre was the first lot offered. The printed particulars gave a long description of the architectural, and external and internal features of the building, all which is known to our readers. Included with the theatre were the house and business premises, No. 1, Pall Mall, comprising the two shops under the colonnade. It was stated that the theatre was at present let on a lease granted to Mr. Lumley, but now held by the Earl of Dudley, at a rent of 1,934*l.* 14s., the lease expiring in September, 1891. The rent of the house in Pall Mall is 230*l.* per annum, making together a rental of 2,164*l.* 14s. After paying ground-rent, the present net rental was 1,401*l.* 14s. up to 1891, when the Earl of Dudley's lease expires, the reversion at that period being estimated at 8,000*l.* per annum.

Mr. Chinnock, in submitting the property, enlarged upon the well-known character of the theatre, remarking that it was difficult to understand why an establishment of such an undoubted value should have been so long closed, more especially as he was in a position to state that responsible parties were ready to become its tenants at a rental of 5,000*l.* a year, and expend 20,000*l.* on the building.

The first bid made was 15,000*l.*, when an advance to 20,000*l.* followed, and after several biddings of 1,000*l.* and 500*l.* each, Mr. Last, solicitor, was declared the purchaser at 31,000*l.* It was stated in the room that the theatre has been purchased for a principal who is interested in having it again opened for lyrical performances.

The Opera Arcade property, comprising four houses and shops in Pall Mall, producing 980*l.* per annum; and thirteen shops in the Opera Arcade, producing 870*l.* per annum, were next offered in seventeen lots. All the houses and shops in Pall Mall were sold for an aggregate sum of 17,000*l.* and eight of the shops in the Opera Arcade for 8,680*l.*, five of the shops being withdrawn.

The concluding lot was the United Hotel and Clergy Club, in Charles-street and Haymarket, producing a rental of 1,905*l.* per annum. 10,000*l.* was the first offer made for this lot, which was immediately followed by an offer of 20,000*l.*; and, after several advances, the hammer ultimately fell at 27,000*l.*, the purchaser being Mr. Cooper.

The total amount produced by the sale was 83,680*l.*

Immediately after this sale the auctioneers submitted the leasehold property in King-street, St. James's, known as the "Palace New Chambers," held on sub-lease from the Crown for an unexpired term of 41 years from Michaelmas, 1873, at a ground-rent of 800*l.* per annum, and producing a rental of 3,000*l.* per annum. There being no offers for this property, it was withdrawn.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE forty-first election of pensioners in connexion with this charity was held yesterday (Thursday), at Willis's-rooms, King-street, St. James's, Mr. Thomas Robinson (Cubitt & Co.), in the chair. There were seven candidates, of whom, however, there were only vacancies for two,—one man and one woman. The candidates were:—Richard Grove, aged 69, builder (third application); Evan Jones, 64, plasterer (first application); Robert Noyes, 75, plumber (first application); Mrs. Eliza Lambert, 72 (seventh application); Mrs. Sarah E. Bear, 67 (sixth application); Mrs. Jane Rumens, 61 (third application); and Mrs. A. N. Williams, 61 (third application). The poll opened at noon, and closed at three p.m., and a few minutes later Messrs. T. Stirling and Matthew Hall, the scrutineers, announced the result of the voting to be as follows:—Grove, 953; Jones, 100; Noyes, 164; Bear, 1,774; Lambert, 4,346; Rumens, 3,246; Williams, 3,084. The Chairman accordingly declared the successful candidates to be Richard Grove and Eliza Lambert, expressing the hope that at the election in November next the whole of the remaining candidates might be elected on to the funds of the Institution.

Mr. James Simpson, on behalf of Mrs. Lambert, thanked the subscribers for electing her, and Mr. Grove spoke for himself. Mr. R. Richardson moved, and Mr. James Waldram seconded, a vote of a thanks to the scrutineers for their services. Mr. Stirling replied, and the meeting was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was moved by Mr. Walter Watson (Watson Brothers). Mr. James Simpson, in seconding the motion, expressed his deep sense of the services which the chairman, and the firm of which he was a member, had conferred upon the Institution. Including the two pensioners elected yesterday, there are now 45 annuitants on the funds of the Institution, the men receiving 25*l.*, and the women 20*l.* annually.

THE DECORATION OF ST. PAUL'S.

SIR,—Permit me to suggest that before anything is decided upon with respect to the decoration of the interior of the metropolitan cathedral, the public may be permitted to see how it looks after a good wash. Methinks a bountiful application of soap and water would put as new a face upon the stonework as a veneer of white marble.

How rapidly we are working round to the old toleration of shams. In Ely Cathedral may be seen some Gothic panelling *painted* on a flat stone surface, which I suppose was not done without the sanction of Sir G. G. Scott; and now we have another distinguished architect proposing to make St. Paul's look as if the inner face of its walls consisted of solid blocks of white marble. Why, we do not carry the sham so far as this in our dining-room tables.

To return to the washing, would not an ablution of the exterior with water containing potash-lye neutralise some of the sulphuric acid, and set free a good deal of that coating of soot which, to foreigners and countrymen, seems to be too readily acquiesced in by Londoners as unavoidable?

C. J. G.

CONFERENCE OF ARCHITECTS.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the programme of meetings, &c., for the ensuing Conference of Architects, which appeared in a professional journal last week, was published without authority, and that it is in several respects inaccurate.

CHARLES L. EASTLAKE, Secretary, R.I.B.A.

THE TRADES MOVEMENT.

Preston.—A strike has taken place at the works of Messrs. Exton Bros., builders and joiners, against the employment of a member of the Union who had fallen into arrear with his contributions. One of the workmen waited upon Messrs. Exton, and stated that "the club" had informed him that if the men worked any longer with the man in arrear, they would be fined 1*l.* each. Hence the strike. Messrs. Exton have already filled up the place of some of their late workmen.

Doncaster.—After a strike of ten days, the master bricklayers have resolved to give the increase of 3s. per week demanded by the men. At the outset, and before the strike took place, the masters offered to meet the men in their demand, but the latter were resolved to have the whole asked for or none. At a meeting of the employers, it was resolved not to give the increase, but the course of events altered their decision. Some of the men, it appears, have left the town, others are working at small jobs for different persons, and when these are completed they have no doubt would have followed those who have gone before. In consequence of this the masters resolved to give the wages demanded, and a note to this effect has been sent to the men.

Shields.—The journeymen joiners of South Shields have given notice to their employers for an advance in their wages to 35s. 5d. per week from the 1st of June next.

Masters and Men.—Both employers and employed, says a Sheffield contemporary, should see the necessity of working together hand-in-hand in the face of a failing trade. The country cannot afford to have exports further reduced by strikes and lock-outs. The Board of Trade returns, month after month, show so large a reduction, compared with the corresponding periods of previous years, that wise men should aid each other to retrieve the loss—a loss which is specially serious to Sheffield, as the principal reduction is in iron and steel and coal. The total declared value of English goods exported in the month of April was 19,432,170*l.*, showing a decrease of 1,910,758*l.*, compared with the same month of 1873, and of 1,601,246*l.* compared with April, 1872. Taking the four months of the present year, the total decrease has amounted to 6,485,058*l.* In April the falling-off in the declared value of iron and steel exported was no less than 865,548*l.*, and in that of coal, 244,246*l.* These figures fully justify Mr. Macdonald's strong words to the Scotch miners.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

THE following is a list of tenders delivered for earthwork of 3¾ miles of narrow gauge railway, commencing at Wantage-road, Berkshire, for Col. Loyd Lindsay, M.P. Mr. Edwin Dolby, architect:—

Nowell	£11,297 !
Flavin	10,204
Dover	9,380
Young	7,862
Pickering	7,229
Poole	6,700
Wainwright & Co.	6,686
Symonds	6,500
Brewer & Co.	5,834
Acock	5,800
Lucas	5,710
Perkins	5,658
Tollit	5,615
Keeble	5,604
Browne & Co.	5,125
Marshall	5,000
Wheeler	4,897
Neave & Sons	4,818
Coker	4,550
Haines	4,307
Sutcliffe	4,267
Hart	4,128
Dewitt	3,970
Baldwin	3,932
Potter	3,740
Vickers	3,569 !

The Archæological Congress of France will be held at Toulouse on June 1st, for a week; and supplemented by a day or two at Agen. The programme is copious and promising; and the places are of the highest historical and monumental interest.

OXFORD SEWERAGE.

THE visiting justices of Littlemore Lunatic Asylum and the Local Board of Health of the City of Oxford having come to terms upon the question of water-supply, all further opposition to Mr. Bailey Denton's scheme of outfall and disposal of sewage is, we are told, at an end. It is finally determined that the Oxfordshire side of the river shall receive the sewage for purification before its discharge.

THE OLD HOUSE AT SANDWICH.

SIR,—I have read in your valuable columns the letter of your correspondent "J. H." concerning and headed "The Destruction of an Ancient House at Sandwich." You will allow me, I am sure, in common fairness, and not for purposes of controversy, to correct its misrepresentations.

"J. H." states that "in all respects" the ancient house showed no symptoms of decay, but stood just as it was three hundred years ago; that it had been purchased by the Independents; that the inscription on the "hideous barn-like" chapel is 1709; that the house "was habitable and might have lasted another century"; that "the woodwork was in remarkable preservation,"—in fact, a "perfect specimen of a sixteenth-century house."

The fact is, the house was divided into two cottages; the tenant of one having deserted it because it was neither wind-tight nor water-tight,—in short, quite unfit for habitation; the other tenant (who was the care-taker of the chapel alluded to by "J. H.") had given notice that it was impossible to stay there another winter. The house was supported by oak corner-posts, and the bottoms had been decaying for years; it was found necessary nearly a century ago to shore them up, cut away the rotten parts, and underset them with stone,—even these were decaying and dilapidated,—the projecting rafters declared dangerous; while the surveyor of the town had called our attention to their unsafe condition. Let me inform "J. H." the house was not a sixteenth-century house at all, but was erected when the seventeenth century was twenty-three years old. Neither was it purchased by us to give access to the building, but had long been the gift of the members of the church. Neither is the inscription on the chapel 1709, &c.

Surely it is not in the interests of archæology to furnish statements so unfounded, especially to wound the feelings of persons who have worshipped God in that "hideous building" for many years, and who are seeking to advance interests to which even archæology must give way.

There are buildings in and about Sandwich older and more artistic than the house your correspondent so dolefully laments. Let me commend them to his archæological enthusiasm.

B. H.

The Vestry, Sandwich.

ACCIDENT WHILE SELLING BEER TO BUILDERS.

AT the Court of Common Pleas the case of Short *v.* Coleman and Another was recently heard before Mr. Justice Keating and a common jury. The action was to recover compensation for very serious personal injury suffered by the plaintiff. The plaintiff was potman to Mr. Bennett, who kept the Queen's Arms, in Weston-street, Bermondsey. The defendants, who were a firm of builders, were erecting a large warehouse close by. The plaintiff was going to the top with beer for the men, when a short length of a scaffold-pole which had been used as a roller to move a girder, fell through, struck the plaintiff on the head and knocked him from the ladder. The result was that the spinal cord was injured, and the left arm and leg were paralysed. Two principal questions were raised. The first was whether there had been any "invitation" to the plaintiff to go upon the premises within the meaning of the decided cases; and whether there was any negligence on the part of the defendants' servants. For the defence it was said that Mr. Coleman had several times warned the plaintiff off the premises, and at one time threatened him with a policeman. Directions were also given that when beer was wanted a labourer should go for it. The jury, after some consideration, found for the defendants, but added that they trusted that in the cause of humanity the defendants would do something for the plaintiff.

Books Received.

St. Etheldreda Festival: A Summary of Proceedings, with Sermons and Addresses, at the Bissexcentenary Festival of St. Etheldreda, at Ely, October, 1873. By CHARLES MERIVALE, D.D., Dean of Ely. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., London.

THIS interesting summary forms a fitting memorial of a festival which no one now alive will again witness. It, of course, includes Sir G. G. Scott's lecture (*in extenso*) on the Cathedral, which was read at the festival by his son, Mr. G. G. Scott; and also the two sermons of the bishops, and addresses, all of which are printed in full. It also gives a correct idea of the progress and cost of the restorations in illustration of Sir Gilbert Scott's lecture. In the quarto edition, of which, as Archdeacon Emery informs us, only 150 copies have been printed, a series of fine engravings to illustrate the period of architecture have been given. These have been taken from the scarce and valuable book, titled "Miller's History of Ely Cathedral." In illustration of Sir G. G. Scott's lecture there are also some engravings from Murray's English Cathedrals, in the octavo edition as well.

The Mosquito Country: A Holiday Tour in Norway, Lapland, and Sweden in the Summer of 1873. By W. D. K. London: Wyman & Sons, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. 1874.

THIS small volume was originally written for private circulation. It is a slight and unpretending narrative, chiefly topographic, and by one ignorant even of the language of the country. It may be of use, however, as a guide-book to other holiday tourists, who seem to be making a run upon the Lapps and other Norse men during their summer daylight and midnight sun. The next novelty will probably be a winter trip to this land of six months' night. If any remnant of the modes of human life which once ruled even in Britain, during its ancient arctic era, are still to be found on the face of the globe in its returning day spring, it is among the Lapps and Esquimaux, who are therefore, and for other reasons, very interesting to us, as records of the far past. But some knowledge of their language is an essential, and with that the holiday folks are not likely to be versant. This is a readable little volume, however, and may, as we have said, be useful.

VARIORUM.

"THE Channel Railroad Ferry, for a Safe and Regular Steam Service between England and the Continent: Invented and proposed by Th. Obach, C.E., and B. Lebret, C.E., Vienna. London. 1874." To those who have some little natural repugnance to trust themselves at the bottom of the sea for a good many miles, it must be pleasant to know that modifications of the out-and-out tunnel are under consideration. This is one of these. The railroad is under water, and moored to the bottom, but the train floats along the surface, driven by steam. It is a sort of ferry, and is so called by the inventors, who do not merely propose the scheme in a general way, but enter, as professional men, into strict and intelligible details, with estimates of cost and of probable profit, which latter they calculate at 25 per cent. for the first ten years. The total cost of the works they estimate at 6,000,000*l.*, made up of such items as guide-bridge, with rails, floats, chains, and other detals, 3,242,395*l*; concrete block for mooring purposes, 510,000*l.*; ferry, with steam engines, &c., 132,465*l.*; docks, sluices, and pumping stations, 200,000*l.* It is to be hoped the result would justify the outlay; but we are disposed to think the experiment will not be tried in this shape.

Miscellanea.

Modern Artists and Picture Buyers.—Galignani, reviewing the *Salon* of 1874, says:—"The artist of to-day, with some honourable exceptions, is apt to become a picture manufacturer, paint rapidly, and live 'fast.' In making these observations we have no intention of desiring to depreciate the French school, which we hold to be superior to that of any other of our day; and we will go farther, and add, French painters of late years have improved as colourists. But many artists are obviously spoilt by the peculiar patronage of wealthy patrons, who pay for the name of the painter. He soon gets more commands than he can ever execute, and we know how money demoralises. The prices paid for pictures by those who satisfy their own vanity in possessing them is perfectly absurd. We know how the rich collectors, who now pay any number of thousands for a Decamps, Millet, Géricault, Prudhon, Delacroix, Bonnington, and others, treated them when alive and struggling with poverty. However, we shall not mend the world by moralising; we would, nevertheless, direct attention to the works of artists yet unknown to fame. In that direction you may find occasionally real gems at a reasonable price, and you will be often encouraging a young man to whom a few hundred francs may be highly acceptable."

National Safe Deposit Company.—The directors of the National Safe Deposit Company have arranged for an experiment to take place on Thursday and Friday, the 28th and 29th, for the purpose of testing their system of fire-proof-construction, as employed in the building which they are erecting near the Mansion-house. It will be made at Messrs. Easton & Anderson's Iron Works, Erith, Kent.

The Artists' Benevolent Fund.—On the 18th inst. the sixty-fifth annual dinner of the above society was held at the Freemasons' Hall. The Lord Mayor, notwithstanding his heavy day's work in the City, presided. The balance-sheet of the fund showed that there was a balance from last year at their bankers of 283*l.* 7*s.* Since the formation of the fund the sum of 33,697*l.* had been distributed in relieving widows and orphans of British artists, fifty-two widows having during the past year received annuities amounting to 1,010*l.*, and sixteen orphans the sum of 80*l.* It was stated by Mr. Lambton Young, the secretary, that the donations that evening amounted to about 600*l.*, including donations of 105*l.* from her Majesty and 10*l.* 10*s.* from the chairman. The chairman, in proposing the toast "Prosperity to the Artists' Benevolent Fund," said it had stood the test for sixty-four years, thus showing that there was something substantial about it; if there had not been, it would have fallen into decay many years ago. He was glad to say that Mr. Alexander Barker had left the funds of the institution a legacy of 3,000*l.* Because, however, the fund had thus something to fall back upon, it ought not to let those present relax in their exertions for the benefit of the institution. Mr. C. J. Dimond still works hard for the fund, as its treasurer.

Architectural Relics of Ancient Leicester. All old inhabitants of Leicester, and those interested in its history, will have noticed the line of street frontage occupying the space in Highcross-street, between the site of the Old Nag's Head, and the Peacock Inn at the end of Peacock-lane. Included in the range of buildings were the house of the Master of Wigston's Hospital, dating from about the reign of Henry VIII., the Old Nag's Head, built in the reign of Charles I., and several brick houses, in all probability erected in the reign of George I. or George II., and others of succeeding periods. These, by their quaint and varied outlines, formed a continuous façade, which always interested the spectator possessing a curious eye, and regard for the architecture of former ages. This week, the materials having been previously disposed of, the work of demolition of these various structures has been commenced. On Wednesday, the porch of the Nag's Head was taken down, and during the week the windows and roofs of other houses have been removed. Already the work of destruction has been so far advanced that the buildings, in a few days, will have disappeared altogether.

The Floating Swimming Baths. — On Saturday, the first of these baths was launched from the slipways of the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company at Blackwall. It is a huge hull of iron, some 170 ft. in length by 30 ft. in breadth, and is to be stationed in the Thames at Hungerford. At present the new bath-house is in the rough, but when completed and painted it will form a fresh-water bath: it will be open at all hours. Under the direction of the Swimming Baths Company, Mr. Whittaker, the engineer, has furnished the new structure with filtering apparatus to ensure the purity of the Thames water that will pour into the reservoir. Arrangements are also made for slightly warming the water in the colder season of the year. A sloping bottom at an inclination of 1 in 30, will give a depth of 7 ft. at the one end and 3 ft. at the other. Two fountains will play in the interior, and it is intended to make the dressing-rooms and the general fittings as complete as possible. The new launch was christened the "Celia," by Mrs. Whittaker, wife of the engineer.

Landseer's Portrait of Sir Walter Scott. The Chancellor of the Exchequer recently informed the Commons of a communication he had received upon a subject of some interest, upon which the hon. member for Wexford had given notice of a question. It related to the portrait of Sir Walter Scott by Landseer. The letter was written by Mr. Scharf, the keeper of the National Portrait Gallery, and it stated that Mr. Albert Grant had munificently offered to present the portrait of Sir Walter Scott, by Landseer, to the nation. It was purchased for 840 guineas, and was now, he (Mr. Scharf) hoped, deposited in the National Portrait Gallery. He enclosed a letter from Mr. Albert Grant which stated that he had purchased the portrait at the sale of the late Sir E. Landseer's works on Saturday last, with the object of presenting it to the National Portrait Gallery, and that he held it at the disposal of the trustees.

Becket's Chapel, Norwich.—We hear with great regret and surprise that the corporation of Norwich have thrown down the groined roof, and carted rubbish so as to fill up the whole area of the crypt known as Thomas à Becket's chapel, formerly part of the Blackfriars' Monastery. The crypt, which was a good specimen of the architecture of the period when the Decorated style prevailed, to say nothing of its being almost the only well-preserved relic of the first period of the monastery, was 55 ft. long, and 20 ft. wide. It, its ante-chapel, and doorway were deemed of such value by Harrod that he had them engraved, and inserted the drawings in his volume. He says:—

"It is very much to be desired that strenuous efforts may be made, when the buildings fall again into the possession of the Corporation, to prevent further destruction of these remarkable remains, and that pains may be taken to apply them to some purpose which, whilst of advantage to the town, may preserve them for the admiration of future generations, who may be probably better able to appreciate their merits than the present."

Was there no one in Norwich to watch over so interesting a memento of the early history of the city?

Oxford Architectural and Historical Society.—On this Saturday, May 23, the churches of Bampton and Clanfield will be visited. There are also remains of the Castle of Aymer de Valence to be seen. Clanfield church presents good work both of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. From Clanfield the party will go to Langford (2½ miles), where the church is also partly twelfth and partly thirteenth-century; and many of the details are exceedingly interesting, particularly the carving in the south porch. On Saturday, May 30, the party will walk to East Hagbourne, where there is an interesting church, partly of Transition Norman, and partly of Early English character. A brass, recording the builder of the south aisle (1413), is preserved. Hence to walk to Blewbury (2 miles), where it is proposed first to visit the church, one of the chief churches of the district, and chiefly of Transition Norman character. Hence across the fields (1 mile) to Blewburton-hill, the most extensive of the British fortresses in the neighbourhood.

A Question as to Mounting Photographs. In the Westminster County Court an action has been decided, in which a bookbinder claimed 24*l.* 10*s.* for binding and mounting certain books and photographs, the mounting being improperly executed. The gist of the case was that the photographs supplied by the plaintiff to be mounted on the printed pages had been improperly mounted, and that the volumes had been damaged in consequence of defendant's neglect, whereby he had only sold five copies at 5*l.* each instead of about fifty, which he might have done had the defendant completed his contract properly. In course of the proceedings Mr. Vernon Heath gave evidence, saying that the best material for mounting was Glenfield's starch, and the best preservative of photos was careful washing. A verdict for plaintiff for 5*l.* 15*s.*, with costs, was given.

The International Exhibition.—The commissioners have decided that, with the closing of the present International Exhibition in October next, the series shall come to an end. The commissioners are now to direct their attention to the best means of utilising the buildings as public museums and galleries of science and art. The great mistake was, as we early pointed out, in making the exhibitions annual. We scarcely expected, however, that our prognostication would have been so soon realised. The buildings, moreover, in which the articles are exhibited have greatly militated against success. The long rambling galleries which have to be traversed fatigue and prevent visitors. We have met with scores of persons who have resolutely kept away on the present occasion because of their recollection of the last.

Design in Melbourne, Victoria.—The Artizans' School of Design at the Trades-hall continues its prosperous course, although in the face of many difficulties, the principal of which is the want of casts and models. A new feature has been introduced. By the desire of the committee, Mr. S. H. Roberts gave a class lecture to the senior pupils of the ornamental class, illustrated by Owen Jones's "Grammar of Ornament." Attention was drawn to the principles of design as laid down by that author, and as shown in ancient practice. It is hoped that lectures of this kind may be frequently given, as the interest shown by the pupils was great.

New Town Mission Hall at Hanley.—Mr. Thomas Worthington, of Hanley, has commenced the erection, at his own cost, of a public hall, to be used as the head quarters of the town mission connected with Bethesda New Connexion Chapel, and also as a lecture-room for a lodge of Good Templars. The site is in Jasper-street, near the Cattle Market, and considerable progress has been made with the external walls. There will be an assembly-room, capable of holding several hundred persons, and at the rear a room, a kitchen, and other additions. The roof will be of open wood-work, with skylights, and the artificial light will be supplied by gas pendants. Mr. Edward Harrison, an amateur, has designed the structure, and Mr. Ward is the builder.

Sir M. D. Wyatt.—Our readers will hear with much regret that Sir Digby Wyatt has felt compelled by the state of his health to resign the post of architect to the India Office. The heavy duties which he has discharged with distinction to himself and much advantage to art, combined with other activities, rendered needful at the close of last year a prolonged rest, which has resulted to a great extent in his restoration to health. He has, however, set a wise example to other overworked public men by taking the warning thus given, and at once limiting the amount of his public labour. We have reason to believe that the post at the India Office will not be filled up.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's Entertainment.—A new second part, entitled, "He's coming! *viâ* Slumborough, Snoozleton, and Snoreham," written by Mr. F. C. Burnand, and set to music by Mr. German Reed, has been produced with success at the St. George's Hall, Langham-place, in the place of "Charity begins at Home," which has been performed here and at the Gallery of Illustration more than 300 times. "Ages Ago" will at present be retained in the programme, but a new entertainment is being prepared to replace it. We are glad to find the public do not forget their old favourites in their new house.

Land in Wolverhampton.—What may be called a series of sales of real property, took place at the Carnarvon Castle Inn, Berry-street, Wolverhampton, the auctioneers being Messrs. Sollom & Barnett. Lot 2, building land fronting Stafford-road, near the Great Western Works, 445 yards, 2*s.* 8*d.* per yard; lots 3 and 4, 829 yards of land adjoining, 2*s.* 7*d.* per yard; lot 5, 842 yards of building land, fronting West-street, Stafford-road, 2*s.* 9*d.* per yard; lot 6, another piece of land adjoining, 3*s.* per yard; lot 8, 2,514 square yards in Bromley-street, Blakenall, 1*s.* 11*d.* per yard.

Patent Sanitary Appliances.—Banner's patent drain-trap is described as being self-acting and air-tight, preventing at all times the escape of sewer gases into houses, and dispensing with the usual forms of D and other traps of water-closets. One trap in the basement suffices for several closets, and can, it is said, be readily adapted to existing houses. Banner's patent disinfector is also a self-acting apparatus, which discharges into closet-pans, when in use, some disinfecting fluid such as chloralum. It is not requisite where the patent drain-trap is applied.

Ironwork, Alexandra Palace.—The rebuilding of the Alexandra Palace, at Muswell Hill, is proceeding with vigour. The ironwork in the roofs and girders amounts to 800 tons, which are being supplied by Messrs. Handyside & Co., of Derby and London, who have been working late and early with a large force of men to keep pace with the builders. A large amount of riveting on the site is rendered necessary by the peculiar construction of the arched-roof ribs of the Central Hall and the domes for the Conservatories.

Safety-Belt for Painters.—I beg to suggest the use of a safety-belt to be worn by house-painters when at work on the upper portion of high ladders. It should consist of a stoutish cord about 5 ft. long, with a large iron hook attached, to pass over one of the rounds of the ladder, the other end passing round the waist of the workman, and fastening by a snap-hook into an eye rove in the cord. My only object in bringing it to your notice, is the hope that some practical man may take up the idea and manufacture the article in question.—W. LUCAS.

The City Temple.—The new place of public worship known as the City Temple, situate at the southern side of the Holborn Viaduct, has been opened for Divine service. It belongs to the Congregationalist body, and is intended for the accommodation of Dr. Parker's followers, who formerly met at the old chapel in the Poultry. The new temple is built in a light Italian style of architecture, and will afford seats for about 2,500 persons. Underneath the area of the chapel are school-rooms.

Tissington Well-dressing at Ashbourn. On Ascension Day, according to immemorial custom, the village of Tissington celebrated its annual festival. The usual divine services took place at the Five Wells, which were decorated with inscriptions, arches, crosses, and interlaced triangles, in daisies, as usual in these curious observances. The inscription on the Coffin Well was "Spring up, O well"; that on Goodwin's Well, "Carried up on high"; and that on the Town Well, "A cloud received him."

Metropolitan Playgrounds for Children. In the House of Commons, Sir F. Perkins asked the Home Secretary whether he would have any objection, in the Bill he had promised to introduce for giving greater facilities for the acquisition of sites for industrial dwellings in the metropolis, to include provisions for enabling the municipal authorities to provide public playgrounds for children. Mr. Secretary Cross said he should have no objection to consider the question raised.

Increase of Wesleyan Chapels.—Another of the fifty new Wesleyan chapels, towards the erection of which Sir F. Lycett has given 50,000*l.*, has been opened for divine worship in Green-lanes, Stoke Newington-green, by the Rev. G. T. Perks, the president of the Wesleyan Conference. It will provide sitting accommodation for 1,200 worshippers, and has been erected at a total cost of 6,700*l.*, exclusive of the site, which has been given by Sir F. Lycett.

Free Library for Bristol.—The citizens of Bristol have resolved to adopt the provisions of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, and the new building will be commenced at once. The cost is estimated at 10,000*l.*, and of this amount upwards of 2,000*l.* have been voluntarily subscribed. Alderman Proctor's gift has produced a stir of mind which will probably benefit Bristol in many directions.

Bursting of Reservoirs in the United States.—Telegrams from New York state, that an inundation has been caused by the bursting of three reservoirs at Goshen, Massachusetts. A hundred and fifty lives have been lost. The damage to property is estimated at a million and a half of dollars.

Middleton Church.—Mr. Wood has had a "sedilia" in Portland stone erected in Middleton Church, three miles from King's Lynn. It has three handsome heads to it, and the back is carved and inlaid, and there are also a piscina alongside of it, two tablets, and a reredos.

TENDERS

For the erection of a bonded store and warehouse with stabling, &c., for Mr. W. Sanderson, Canterbury. Mr. J. G. Hall, architect:—

Cozens	£3,190 0 0
Naylor	3,166 0 0
Garkin & Godden (accepted)	3,120 0 0

For a villa residence at Stoney Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, for Mr. W. Holyoake. Mr. J. Cotton, architect. Quantities supplied:—

Fisher	£2,349 0 0
Matthews & Son	2,274 0 0
Hardwick & Son	2,152 0 0
Nelson	2,145 0 0
Cook & Harris	2,057 0 0
Walford	1,875 0 0
Brazier & Weaver (accepted)	1,850 0 0

For the restoration and reseating of St. Michael's Church, Budbrooke, near Warwick. Mr. J. Cotton, architect. Quantities supplied (revised tenders):—

		Porch, &c.
Nelson	£971 0 0	£114 0 0
Robbins	929 13 6	102 3 6
Mason (accepted)	907 13 0	87 17 0

For pulling down and rebuilding 16, Duke-street, Brighton, and altering shop front, 56, West-street, for Mr. C. Feldwicke. Mr. B. H. Nunn, architect:—

Cheesman & Co.	£750 0 0
Parsons	750 0 0
Patching & Webber	710 0 0
Lockyer	650 0 0
Newnham	618 0 0
Garrett	579 0 0

For Increased Accommodation at High Wycombe Board Schools. Mr. A. Vernon, architect:—

Loosley (accepted)	£2,610 11 8

For Board-room and Offices, Rushey-green, for the Lewisham District Board of Works. Mr. G. Elkington, architect. Quantities by Mr. Gwyther:—

Holland & Hannen	£11,922 0 0
Tongue	11,400 0 0
Dove Brothers	10,985 0 0
Pritchard	10,845 0 0
Elkington	10,833 0 0
Downs & Co.	10,290 0 0
Rider & Son	10,220 0 0
Hill, Higgs, & Hill (accepted)	9,785 0 0

For Newtoun Schools, for the Reading and Earley School Boards. Mr. J. Morris, architect. Tenders were invited for the whole work or for separate trades.

For the whole:—

Gibson Brothers	£5,990 0 0
Martin & Wells	5,899 8 2
Woodroffe	5,612 0 0
Woodbridge	5,575 0 0
Poffley	5,550 0 0
Niblett & Son	5,420 0 0
Filewood	5,288 0 0

Accepted for the separate trades:—

Bricklayer.

Higgs	£2,409 0 0

Mason and Plasterer.

Searle	329 8 0

Slater.

Warmsley & Co.	115 0 0

Carpenter and Joiner.

Sheppard	1,636 0 0

Smith.

Wright & Shackel	369 9 0

Plumbing, Painting, and Glazing.

Sumner	307 0 0

For schools and teacher's residence at Twyford, Berks. Mr. J. Morris, architect:—

Barnicoat	£980 0 0
Lewis	973 17 0
Goodchild	973 16 4
Lawrence	899 0 0
Dodd (accepted)	879 0 0

For new premises Minster-street, Reading, for Messrs. Blowers & Son. Mr. J. Morris, architect:—

Woodroffe	£3,022 0 0
Barnicoat	2,991 0 0
Sheppard	2,978 0 0
Matthews	2,965 0 0
Higgs*	2,924 0 0

* Accepted, subject to revision.

For New Church at Atherstone-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon. Mr. J. Cotton, architect. Quantities supplied:—

Nelson	£1,688 0 0
Mills	1,680 0 0
Collins & Cullis	1,620 0 0
Clark & Smallwood	1,600 0 0
Sheasby	1,430 0 0

For the erection of two shops in the London-road, Kingston Hill, according to plans and specification furnished by the owner, Mr. J. Hill:—

Oldridge	£1,292 0 0
Mason	1,054 0 0
Wright	940 0 0
Todd & Sanders	925 0 0

For billiard-room and other aditions to the Radnor Club, Folkestone. Mr. S. Slingsby Stallwood, architect:—

Newman	£865 0 0
Bowley	749 0 0
Prebble	723 0 0
Brooks & Slade	688 0 0
Unwin (too late)	660 0 0
Dunn (accepted)	656 0 0
Webster (too late)	647 0 0

For workshops at the Crippled Boys' Home, Kensington. Mr. E. C. Robins, architect. Quantities supplied:—

Lucas	£1,496 0 0
Heath	1,394 0 0
Newman & Mann	1,318 0 0
Pritchard	1,313 0 0
Conder	1,309 0 0
Nightingale	1,293 0 0
Crockett	1,275 0 0

For the erection of a bridge over the Derby Canal, for the Derby Sanitary Authority. Mr. John Hume, surveyor:—

Iron Work.

Atlas Iron Works	£430 0 0
Stacey, Davis, & Co.	395 0 0
Eastwood & Co. (accepted)	381 16 0

Builder's Work.

Walkerdine	395 0 0
Tomlinson (accepted)	368 10 0

For underpinning the separation wards at Islington workhouse, Upper Holloway:—

Sawyer	£279 0 0
Gribble	270 0 0
Beckett	250 0 0
Brickell	243 0 0
Niblet & Son	240 0 0
Seed (accepted)	232 0 0
Chivers & Co.	203 0 0

For works required in fittings to shop, &c., Great College-street, Camden Town, for Mr. J. Major. Mr. E. H. Horne, architect:—

Bridgeman	£287 0 0
Whaler	275 0 0
Steed	269 0 0
Wicks	250 0 0
Lewis	246 0 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. J. P.—P.—G. C.—G. R.—N. Q.—G. D.—C. W.—Y. H. & Co.—C. J. G.—B. P.—C. & B.—A. H.—J. W.—W. R.—W. & E.—A. R.—G. W.—O. C.—R. C.—H. H.—J. G.—A. R.—F. W. R.—S. W. & Co.—E. D.—W. H. P.—J. C. H.—N. W.—A. R.—T. R. K.—J. J.—C. L. E.—C. C.

We are compelled to decline pointing out books and giving addresses.

All statements of facts, lists of tenders, &c. must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication.

NOTE.—The responsibility of signed articles, and papers read at public meetings, rests, of course, with the authors.

CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

	Situations Wanted.	Situations Vacant.
Six lines (about fifty words) or under ..	2s. 6d.	4s. 6d.
Each additional line (about ten words)..	0s. 6d.	0s. 6d.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

"THE BUILDER" is supplied, *direct* from the Office, to residents in any part of the United Kingdom at the rate of 19s. per annum, *Payable in Advance.*

Halfpenny stamps accepted for amounts under 5s. Any larger sum should be remitted by Money Order, payable at the Post Office, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C. to DOUGLAS FOURDRINIER.

Advertisements cannot be received for the current week's issue later than **THREE o'clock p.m.** *on THURSDAY.*

Bath Stone of best quality.
RANDELL, SAUNDERS, & CO. (Limited),
Quarrymen and Stone Merchants.
List of Prices at the Quarries and Depôts; also cost of transit to any part of the Kingdom, on application to
Bath Stone Office, Corsham, Wilts. [ADVT.]

STONE BROTHERS,
Bath Stone Merchants,
supply direct from their own Quarries:—
BOX GROUND, CORSHAM DOWN,
FARLEIGH DOWN, COMBE DOWN,
AND STOKE GROUND.
Prices on application at Bath-stone Office, Bath.
London Depôt, G.W.R. Mileage Station, Paddington.
Stone Dressings prepared ready for fixing. [ADVT.]

Whitland Abbey Green Slates.—These Quarries are now fully opened out, and are producing Slates in all sizes, and in any quantity: sound, and of choice green tint. Orders can be executed without a day's delay.—For samples and further particulars, apply to the MANAGER, at the Quarries, Narberth-road, R.S.O. [ADVT.

Asphalte.
Seyssel, Patent Metallic Lava and White Asphaltes.
M. STODART & CO.
Office:
No. 117, Cannon-street, E.C.—[ADVT.]

Bills of Quantities, Specifications, &c., Lithographed by ROBT. J. COOK & HAMMOND, 29, Charing-cross, S.W., with accuracy and punctuality. Plans and Drawings Copied, Traced, or Lithographed.—[ADVT.]

T. TRELOAR & SONS,
SUPERIOR
COCOA-NUT
FIBRE
MATTING
AND
MATS.
Manufacturers and Warehousemen,
69, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.
GOOD
FLOOR
CLOTH.
KAMPTULICON
CORK
CARPET.